Support Team
Application
2015
Support Team Information

The information provided in this application is intended to provide a detailed description of the role, responsibility, and time commitment involved in Support Team. All questions should be directed to Lee Wilson (lwilson@uu.edu).

Please read through this application intentionally and please make time to pray about how God might want to use you in Life Groups this year.

About Life Groups

As the year 2015 begins, it's time to wish the ministry of Life Groups at Union University a happy 18th birthday! Interestingly enough, most of the young men and women who will participate in Life Groups also turn 18 in 2015.

For these students, fresh out of high school, the year ahead poses all sorts of uncertainties; it will be a time of significant transition and discovery. This is a vulnerable juncture for many of the students and most fear that they will have to walk through it alone. This is where Life Groups come in.

Year after year, new students thrive at Union because of the investment Life Group leaders make in their lives. In 2015, Life Groups will continue to meet new students where they are and help them take those first critical steps of their collegiate years.

Incoming students possess diverse backgrounds, individualized needs, and unique interests. As such, Life Group leaders must meet students where they are and become all things to all students. This requires Life Group Leaders to have the flexibility to take on a variety of roles and develop a broad range of interpersonal skills. They are community building strategists, caring friends, conversational evangelists, meddling mentors, and companions in crisis.

In all these roles Life Groups Leaders and Life Group Support Team serve as the light of Christ to those in their care.

About Support Team

What began as a glorified kitchen crew and ministry mop-up team has morphed into something that has outgrown the limited responsibilities that the nomenclature of "Support Team" might initially indicate.

The first iteration of Support Team began with a handful of committed Life Group Leaders who, unable to return as leaders, discovered they were equally incapable of walking away from the ministry. They self-organized and became, in effect, a Kitchen Cabinet of advisors and an over-eager pool of volunteers to help make retreats and Life Group community activities possible.
Over the last 5 years there has been much development in the Support Team role as it has moved out of the shadows of the ministry of Life Groups and into the spotlight.

The year 2014 was a watershed year for the ministry of Life Groups as Support Team stepped up to fill a void in leadership left by the departure of the Director of Women's Discipleship. An incredible group of 14 student leaders stood in the gap to carry significant responsibilities in every stage of recruitment, training, coaching, and evaluation of the ministry of Life Groups.

Moving into 2015, another group of seasoned Life Group Leaders will be answering the call to step up and join the ranks of the Life Group Support Team.

**Job Description**

Members of the Support Team will support and advise the Director of Discipleship as he works to build a culture of discipleship at Union University through the ministry of Life Groups.

This position will involve a sacrificial level of commitment to relational ministry, participation in leadership recruitment & training, and some event planning.

The members of the Support Team will collaborate with the Director of Discipleship in leading the ministry of Life Groups. They will also work in partnerships to focus in on the needs of a small group of Life Group Leaders.

**Support Team Selection**

Once an applicant has completed their written application, one printed copies of the full application should be submitted in person to Director of Discipleship Lee Wilson. All questions regarding application should be directed to lwilson@uu.edu.

Upon submission of application on Tuesday, February 3rd, Life Group Leader candidates will be able to sign up to be interviewed by the Director of Discipleship and two members of the previous year's Life Group Support Team. Interviews will begin on Wednesday, February 4th and take place in the Office of University Ministries.

Support Team interviews will conclude Monday, February 9th and the Support Team will be announced Wednesday, February 11th.

**Support Team Responsibilities**

*The Spring*

Support Team will be responsible for the majority of the interviewing process and selection of approximately 50 Life Group Leaders. The entirety of the first round of interviews will be hosted by members of the Support Team. OUM staff will train the ST and supervise the initial round of interviews before stepping in to do a round of follow up interviews for applicants requiring additional scrutiny.
The Support Team will play a hands on role in planning and executing the spring retreat, especially as pertains to the training the Life Group Leaders. Specific roles at the retreat will be determined on the basis of Support Team gifting & interest.

Support Team will serve as expert consultants in the partnering process and, as soon as partners are determined, begin investing in their Life Group Leaders individually and collectively.

Support Team will spend the final weeks of the semester assisting Life Group Leaders with the development of individualized partnership profiles that will be distributed to new students at New Student Orientation. The goal is to open up online registration for Life Groups during the summer.

**The Summer**
During the summer, the Support Team will be coordinating the distribution of resources to help prepare Life Group Leaders spiritually for the ministry that awaits them in the fall semester.

**The Fall**
Support Team will continue to show spiritual leadership and care for the Life Group Leaders at the August retreat, leading some of the training and subsequently guiding their family of Life Group Leaders through the details of how to lead their Life Groups well (spiritually and logistically).

In conjunction with the Director, the Support Team will be working very hard in the fall to provide support & ongoing leadership development to meet specific needs of individual Life Group Leaders under their Family Group care.

The Support Team's focus, time, and energy will be directed to meeting frequently with individual Life Group Leaders and regularly with their entire Family Group.

Support Team partnerships will give greater definition to the culture of their Family Group. Clear communication of expectations will be essential to the the success of Family Groups.

The Support Team will be working together to coordinate three Life Group Leader community events in the fall (6 Week Strategy Session, Mid-Semester Meal, and Holiday Gathering).

**Director Support**

Life Group Support Team carries a great deal of responsibility. In this role, student leaders work together in tandem with the Director of Discipleship to sustain the ministry of Life Groups.

The Director of Discipleship will serve as the leader of the Life Group Support Team, advising and directing every aspect of the ministry. The Director will have a high level of involvement in the work of the team and and equally high level of investment in the individual lives of Support Team members.
For the purpose of achieving these goals, the Support Team will have a standing meeting on Monday mornings from 10:00-11:00. This meeting will provide opportunity for necessary planning as well as spiritual renewal and encouragement.

In addition to Monday meetings, the Support Team is invited to take (or audit) the Discipleship Strategies in College Ministry (CHR 481) mentorship class that will meet Mondays & Fridays at 11am.

The Director will also make every attempt to assist Life Group Support Team members to advance in their vocational ministry goals.

Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue, Feb. 3</td>
<td>LGST applications due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, Feb. 4</td>
<td>LGST interviews begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur, Feb. 5</td>
<td>Student Leadership Joint Informational &amp; LGL apps released</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, Feb. 9</td>
<td>LGL informational in HH at 10am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, Feb. 11</td>
<td>LGST announced</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, Feb. 16</td>
<td>LGL apps due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat, Feb. 21</td>
<td>LGLST interviewing training session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, Feb. 23</td>
<td>Returning LGL interviews begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, March 2</td>
<td>New LGL interviews begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon, Mar 23</td>
<td>LGL selections finalized, pre-partnering begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur, March 26</td>
<td>LGL 2015 announced</td>
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**SPRING BREAK**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fri, April 10</td>
<td>Student Leadership Kickoff Rally</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 10-12</td>
<td>Mandatory LGL Retreat (location TBD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 13-20</td>
<td>Partnering activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun, April 26</td>
<td>Mandatory Partner Reveal</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1, 2</td>
<td>New Student Orientation #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri, May 8</td>
<td>Group Profiles &amp; Partner Photos Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat, May 9</td>
<td>LGL Picnic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat, May 16</td>
<td>Graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 8, 9</td>
<td>New Student Orientation #2</td>
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**SUMMER**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 13, 14</td>
<td>New Student Orientation #3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues, August 11-13</td>
<td>Mandatory Fall Retreat</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 14-17</td>
<td>Welcome Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues, Aug 18</td>
<td>Class Begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 18-22</td>
<td>First Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 18f</td>
<td>Life Group Community Building Emphasis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat, Sept 26</td>
<td>ALL LGL GATHERING &amp; STRATEGY SESSION</td>
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Support Team Application

All application materials are due to Lee Wilson by 4pm on Tues, February 3, 2015.

1) PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: ______________________________________________________________________
Campus Housing (Dorm/Number) ________________________________________________
Mailing Address_______________________________________________________________
City_______________________________ State___________________ Zip Code__________
Phone_____________________ E-mail____________________________________________
Age_______ Birthday____________ Hometown (city, state) ____________________________
Anticipated Graduation Date _____________ Course of Study __________________________
Home Church ________________________ Jackson Church __________________________

2) COVER LETTER

Write a single page cover letter highlighting your interest in the Support Team position,
basic philosophy of discipleship ministry, and what you have to offer the ministry of Life
Groups.

3) MINISTRY RESUME

Submit a single page resume detailing your work and ministry experience. Be sure to
indicate the responsibilities you carried in the various positions you have held.

4) LIFE GROUP QUESTIONNAIRE

PART ONE:
Complete the 2014 Life Group Leader Evaluation Form located at the following link:
http://goo.gl/GOQBWW

PART TWO:
Answer the following Support Team specific questions openly and honestly.

1. As a ministry, what is Life Groups doing well? In what areas does the ministry need
improvement? How can we build on our strengths and address our weaknesses?
2. What are the most persistent struggles Life Group Leaders deal with? What would
you change or do differently to help student leaders through those challenges?
3. Which aspects of the job description are you most excited about? Which
responsibilities are most daunting? What needs to change in your life for you to
succeed as a member of Support Team? What, if any, time commitments could
hinder your investment in Support Team?

5) RECOMMENDATIONS

Have a former Life Group Partner and a Support Team member complete and submit the
attached recommendation form.
Support Team Recommendation

Name of Applicant ____________________________________________________________
Name of Recommender _______________________________________________________
Relationship to Applicant _______________________________________________________

To the recommender:
Each applicant must submit a recommendation from a former Life Group Partner and member of Support Team. As the applicant is requesting to serve on Support Team, he/she must have a high recommendation from you in order to be offered a position. Please note that being a Support Team member carries a high level of responsibility and influence. As such, this recommendation must not be taken lightly. Please submit to Lee Wilson upon completion.

To be completed by the recommender:
How long have you known the applicant? ____________________________________
How long have you observed their ministry? __________________________________
How well do you know the applicant?
(  ) Casually, a few personal contacts
(  ) Fairly well, a number of personal contacts
(  ) A very close personal relationship

To the best of your knowledge, is the applicant a devoted follower of Christ? ______

Comments:________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

To what extent is the applicant engaged in discipleship ministry?
(  ) Casually, has held leadership role(s) but is somewhat erratic & undependable
(  ) Is consistent, reliable, and shows up when asked
(  ) Enthusiastically engages people, takes initiative, & leads others to do likewise

In what forms of church & campus ministry has the applicant been regularly active?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

How would you describe the applicant in the following areas?
Leadership _________________________________________________________________
Responsibility _____________________________________________________________
Church ________________________________________________________________
Loyalty ______________________________________________________________
Commitment __________________________________________________________
Humility/Teachability____________________________________________________
In your opinion, does the applicant possess any outstanding qualities?
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

In your estimation, this applicant’s spiritual influence on others will be:
( ) Strengthening ( ) Neutral ( ) Injurious ( ) Don’t know

Has the applicant’s entire record been such that you would place full confidence in his/her integrity? ____

Comments: ______________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

Are there personality traits that would hinder this applicant in her/his relationship with others?
____________________________________________________________________

Would you, without hesitation, recommend this person to participate as a member of the Life Group Support Team? ________________

Additional Comments:
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

...........

Date________________
Name (please print) _____________________________
Phone ________________________________________
Signature _____________________________________
Support Team Recommendation

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______________________________________________________________________

Date________________
Name (please print) _____________________________
Phone ________________________________________
Signature _____________________________________