

UCH Leaders Network - Cohorts

What are cohorts?

Cohorts are small groupings of the leaders in the UCH Leaders Network.

What is the purpose of a cohort?

The purpose of a cohort is to support and encourage fellow leaders who are implementing the household vision in their churches or through church planting.

Why are cohorts important?

No leader is an island. No leader can go it alone. Cohorts address the need we each have to be supported in implementing the household vision. (The support needed is very seldom found in the church leader meetings we are normally required to attend).

1. We each need to have someone who can listen and provide feedback that can only be given by someone who is traveling the same road.
2. We each need to be upheld in prayer as we fight the spiritual war in and around us.
3. We each need to have people who are familiar, yet outside of our situation to help us see blind spots.
4. We each need to return to others the blessings we ourselves have received by being available to fellow leaders who walk with us.

How are cohorts set up?

1. Individual cohorts will be established around one of the four approaches for implementing the vision described below (+).
2. Leaders can choose the approach that best describes their unique situation and request to join the corresponding cohort.
3. Each cohort will have a coordinator to lead the cohort by keeping contact information current and to help facilitate interaction among those in the cohort as needed. The coordinator will also be responsible for leading the cohorts on the days of the Network Gatherings.

How do cohorts work?

1. Each cohort will have its own membership list that can be used by those in the cohort to contact each other. It is through informal interactions that we believe most of the benefit of the cohorts will be derived.
2. Cohorts will play a strategic role in the actual Network Gatherings. For example, the cohorts will meet during the Network Gatherings to update each other on what is happening in their respective churches, discuss needs, and to pray for each other. Cohorts will also discuss application of the presentation made at the Network Gathering.

3. Cohorts do not need to meet outside of the Network Gatherings unless those in the cohort decide to do so.

Requirements

1. Participation in cohorts will be voluntary. One does not need to be a member of a cohort in order to participate in the Network. However, to be in a cohort, one must be a member of the Network (*).
2. The minimum participation requirement in the cohorts is attendance at the Network gatherings (at least once per year) and that each member agrees to be available to respond via email or phone to questions or requests made by a member in the cohort within 24 hours of the request.

(+)

Four Implementation Approaches For Uniting Church and Home (Each cohort will be modeled after one of these four implementation approaches)

1. **Incremental Approach.**
The church leadership does not completely agree on the vision as the direction for the whole church, but supports one "pilot/test" program or emphasis area. Examples of incremental implementation might include starting a Household Worship Service, an age-integrated Sunday School class or Small group, Family-based youth ministry.
2. **Systematic Approach.**
The church leadership agrees on the vision and measured, church-wide implementation. This involves emphasizing the principles of the vision in ministry areas that will impact everybody. This usually includes the strategic addition/modification/deletion of one, or some of the programs. Examples include starting a church-wide Head of Household meeting, the elders committing to shepherding relationships, or every household doing family devotions.
3. **Fresh Start Approach.**
The church leadership agrees on the vision and drastic church-wide implementation. This is a faster approach that requires extraordinary preparation of the church body as it involves an initial thrust of removing most if not all traditional programming.
4. **Church Planting Approach.**
A core group that is in complete agreement on the vision and implementation seeks to start a new church with the goal of reaching people for Christ.

(*)

To request membership in the Network, simply fill out and submit the UCH Church Leaders Network Questionnaire. A copy of this very short form may be downloaded from www.uchlink.org/network.html.