

PRAYER AND CARE

WHAT IS A CULTURE GUIDE?

At Victory Church, we know that culture either happens by design or by default. Rather than allowing our feelings, upbringings, past experiences, or standards of society to take the lead, our goal is to intentionally create a culture that glorifies God.

Culture Guides are intended to do 2 primary things:

1. Give members the information needed to *finalize* their serving team decision.
2. Serve *as the onboarding*, providing all the information and guidance for how the team operates.

C.H.E.C.K. VALUES & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

COURAGEOUS:

We follow Jesus into the unknown, walking by faith and not by sight, no matter what it costs us.

- We Get Out of the Boat
- We Lead Ourselves

HUMBLE:

We are not led by title. We lead with open hands, always seeking to serve others.

- We Use Our Titles as Towels
- We Fail Forward

EMPOWERING:

We make disciples who make disciples: Equip, empower, and send!

- We Are Gold Miners
- We Hand Over the Keys

CONNECTED:

We stroll through the crowd; we seek to know people and walk alongside them through life.

- We Smell Like the Sheep
- We Pull on the Same Rope

KIND:

People know we are disciples of Jesus by the way we love others.

- We Are Tigger, Not Eeyore
- We Live by the Golden Rule

TEAM POSITIONS

- **Ministry Lead:** provides oversight for an entire ministry for a campus or for Victory Church
- **Coordinator:** leads/supports a group of coaches and/or oversees a specific component of ministry
- **Coach:** leads/supports a group of leaders
- **Team Leader:** leads/supports a group of team members or a small group
- **Group Leader:** leads a small group
- **Team Member:** (replaces the term "volunteer"); usually an individual contributor to a ministry team

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE & GROW

Within our Prayer and Care Team, there are many different teams, roles, and leadership opportunities! Each team serves a unique function but carries the same heart of preparing for, looking for, and caring for the one. Below are the requirements for joining our teams, a list of our teams, a brief explanation of their function, and which campuses they serve.

Requirements for joining a team:

- Must be a member of Victory Church for a minimum of 6 months
- Complete FORWARD Basics and FORWARD Experience
- Part of a Small Group or Serving Team
- Referral by Small Group Leader or Ministry Leader
- Interview with Campus Pastoral Care Pastor

Prayer Team – Pray for those who attend our weekend services and special events

- *All campuses*
- *Ages: 18+*

Care Ministry Team – Minister to people who need more than prayer (Short-term follow-up after prayer, biblical guidance, etc.)

- *All campuses*
- *Ages: 18+*

Visitation Team – Visit people to minister to them wherever they are (home, hospital, etc.)

- *All campuses*
- *Ages: 18+*

OUR MINISTRY GOAL

The Prayer and Care Team is dedicated to uplifting others through fervent prayer and compassionate care. We commit to maintaining a godly lifestyle and nurturing our spiritual well-being through constant communion with Jesus. This foundation prepares us to effectively support those in need.

By practicing active listening, showing empathy, and remaining non-judgmental, we create a safe space for people to share their burdens. Our goal is to be a source of hope, facilitating healing and fostering a deeper connection with the Father.

The mission of our teams is to “CARE”:

- **CONNECT** – *Help people experience the love of God while guiding them to healthy community.*
- **AFFIRM** – *Help people discover and embrace their true identity, purpose, and value in Christ.*
- **RESTORE** – *Partner with people to address the root causes of their challenges, promoting healing and wholeness.*
- **EMPOWER** – *Equip individuals with the knowledge, skills, and resources to thrive in their relationship with Jesus.*

GUIDELINES & COMMITMENTS

Time Commitments:

Weekends: Prayer and Care team members serve at our weekend services **every other week**. Our teams connect and pray together 45 minutes before each service time to ask the Holy Spirit to release God’s love and power to those in need. At the end of the service, we proceed to the front of the various worship venues to receive people at the altar to listen to their needs, pray with expectancy, and end with words of encouragement and hope. Parts of our team pray with our members and the community through our online prayer requests. Those serving on this part of our team serve online from their homes and are expected to meet the same requirements as those who serve on-site.

Trainings: During the year, trainings/refreshers may be scheduled for your team, or even for larger gatherings of all of your campus' Prayer and Care ministries. We ask that, as these are announced, you make every effort to attend.

Other Opportunities: The two items above are the only required on-site time commitments. Your campus Pastoral Care Pastor may send out requests for additional opportunities (i.e., additional needs for Easter, special events, our Thirst prayer and worship services, etc). Prayer and Care team members are encouraged to be ready to pray whenever called upon.

Scheduling: We use an online tool called Planning Center Online (PCO) for all of our ministry's scheduling. It will communicate to your email inbox, and even your text number if you like, but it will require you to use either its phone app or website to confirm your schedule request or to communicate your upcoming schedule conflicts. Using Planning Center is expected for all Prayer and Care Team members. It's not complicated, and we will help you until you're comfortable using it on your own.

Visitation Teams communicate availability and serve when needed using the GroupMe app.

Real Relationships: It's our hope that friendships grow as you link arms with other Prayer and Care Team members to serve!

Background Checks are conducted for all team members (ages 18+) in all ministries at Victory. But don't let that stop you! Please have a conversation with us. We love to walk relationally with people and find a way to say "Yes!"

Onboarding and Next Steps: Your campus Pastoral Care Pastor can help you discern which team might be a good fit and will help you understand your next steps for that particular team. You can expect to be welcomed, to be well-trained, to be introduced to teammates, and to be provided with necessary details like time expectations, what to wear (and not wear), where to meet, and where to park.

FAQs

How often would I be scheduled?

Every other week. The additional details of "what time" and "how long" will be answered by the leader of the team you're interested in.

Could I serve at the same (or different) time as my family?

Yes! We will work with you.

I have kids. Can I still serve?

Yes! This is a great opportunity to model serving for your children. We'll work with you and help you know when you can step away to get your kids checked into their ministry.

What happens if I miss a week I am scheduled?

Communicate, communicate, communicate. If you know in advance, please inform your leader. If there's a conflict on the day of your serving (like waking up sick or with a sick child), communicate with your Team Leader as soon as possible. Any heads-up is better than no heads-up! And if you forgot and missed the scheduled time, please communicate anyway. Communication builds relationships and trust.

I am concerned about having a Background Check.

Please talk with us! Whether it's concern about what may show up on it, fear of not having necessary documents, or something else, please trust us to walk with you. We can provide guidance, and we promise that your personal information will be handled with confidentiality and love by a very small number of necessary staff members.

What's next?

Let us know if you're considering one of our teams! Unsure of which one? Let us help you sort that out! Then one of our leaders will reach out to you about next steps (i.e., shadowing a member of the team you're interested in during an upcoming weekend service). If a team you try doesn't feel like the right fit, we will help you find the right one, even if it means serving in an entirely different ministry. We're here to help!

I still have questions...

Not a problem! Your campus Pastoral Care Pastor can help guide you or find the answer you need.