

REGIONAL GROUPS FAQ

If you currently live or are moving away from an EastLake Church Network location, why not start a regional group?

What is a regional group?

A regional group is a gathering of people who live in a specific area to connect in friendship and grow in their faith while staying connected to EastLake Church by using available resources (online campus, group discussion guides, etc.). Essentially, it's a local extension of EastLake Church wherever you are.

How do I start a regional group?

It's pretty easy to get a regional group up and running. Start by contacting our online pastor at online@eastlakechurch.com. They will let you know what steps you need to take to get started, make sure you have the resources you need, and connect you with anyone else in your area who might want to be part of your regional group.

Is it possible for a regional group to become an EastLake Church location?

Yes. At EastLake Church, one of our primary goals is to make room for people to find and follow Jesus. That's why we are always open to launching church locations wherever a large enough group of committed Jesus-followers exists who can support our particular expression of faith.

We believe it takes all kinds of churches to reach all kinds of people. We know we are neither the only, nor the best, church around. That said, we believe that we have a specific vision and style of church that some people find comfortable and encouraging.

What are some of the specific steps involved in moving from a group to a campus?

1. Let us know you're interested by contacting multiplication@eastlakechurch.com. We will begin to work with you on moving forward through our next steps.
2. Our strategic model relies extensively on discipleship and leadership development, which is a two-fold approach to rapid reproduction of leadership and culture. Using the resources and information detailed in Jim Putnam's book, *Real Life Discipleship*, we encourage you to begin to recruit, disciple, train, and release people into your ministry teams. A successful campus launch requires the development of disciples, leaders, and groups who are committed to the church's mission, extending the reach of God's kingdom, and can support the vision of a new church campus.

3. To begin, host a church launch party once every two months. (These parties can increase in frequency as the team grows in size and momentum.) The purpose of these parties is to gather ever-increasing numbers of interested people and share the vision of a new church campus in their community. A successful gathering will always include an invitation for new people to join the team and provide an opportunity for them to connect with the campus leadership team.
4. Make a commitment to serve as a team in the community and ensure that it is included in your group's regular activities. Identify an effective partner organization or two in your local community and find out what you can do to help them. Then do it.
5. Over time, our hope is to see the launch team grow into a group of roughly one hundred people who are committed to the church's mission and vision through investing their time, talent, and treasure. This provides a strong foundation to support the church campus when it begins public preview services and, eventually, regular weekly services.