

You don't have to look too far to see that ministries are different. Ministries are about people, and people are different. People have different perspectives and different ideas. Often, we can learn a lot by listening to what others are doing.

# Real **W**

We interviewed the following ACS clients to find out about the small groups ministries in their churches:



**Keith Thompson**  
High Point Baptist Church  
Cedar Hill, TX



**Sue Starr**  
Williamsburg  
Community Chapel  
Williamsburg, VA



**Patty Turner**  
Clear Creek Community Church  
League City, TX



**Suzette Vichich**  
Clear Creek Community Church  
League City, TX

**Vision Staff:** *Do you consider small groups ministry one of many ministry options (along with music ministry, men's and women's ministries, etc.), or does it play a more significant role? If the latter, please explain.*



**KT:** We are not a church with small groups; we are a church of small groups. Group leaders are ministers to their group.



**SS:** It is somewhat of a foundation across all the other ministries. This does not lessen the others, but supplements them. The small groups are building blocks in the foundation of the church's body.



**PT/SV:** More significant. It is the key to our strategy of helping the unchurched become fully devoted followers of Christ.

**Vision Staff:** *How do you regulate curriculum?*



**PT/SV:** Currently, we review curriculum before it is used; group leaders have flexibility in curriculum choice.



**KT:** Groups can use anything that is reasonable or appropriate.



**SS:** The decision is mostly left to the leader. Five to six weeks at a time, the whole church does the same material. New groups usually follow a CD at first for training.



# WORLD

## Small Groups

**Vision Staff:** *How much accountability is there in your small groups ministry? Is this level of accountability working well?*



**KT:** Coaches are to make sure leaders are accountable to the small groups. Each leader is required to have a trainee. One critical point is the start and end date; you don't want cliques to be created. Small groups stop and start. They have temporary focuses. Some people repeat, and some rotate. Many repeaters become leaders.



**PT/SV:** Staff and coaches meet with group leaders regularly for accountability. We are in the process of putting more structure and accountability in place. We are planning to use Access ACS to help us achieve this.

**Vision Staff:** *What was the biggest obstacle you've had to overcome in your small groups ministry? How did you do it?*



**SS:** Getting leaders to come to training is certainly the biggest obstacle, and we are striving to develop a system to get training to those qualified to do a great job.



**PT/SV:** Keeping track of what groups we have and making sure they are focused on making disciples. We're still working on it!



**KT:** Building a different mindset of the members and the culture, and working through the paradigm. There has been resistance, and some feel threatened. Some are comfortable and do not like change. Turbo training on small groups itself has helped. This qualifies people to be leaders and participants. *Transitioning* by Dan Southerland helped! □



### Online Resources

*Have questions or want to contribute to a discussion?*

*Visit the ACS Technologies eBoards at [www.acstechnologies.com/eboard](http://www.acstechnologies.com/eboard).*