

Wesley Connections is a CODI-sponsored program to encourage all members of the Wesley community who share aspects of identity or a common interest to get to know each other outside of events organized by the Wesley School.

“Identity” includes all the aspects of our lives that affect how we perceive the world and how the world at large perceives us. These aspects may include ethnicity, gender, religion, country of origin, sexual orientation, family status and more. It is also important to remember that while members of a group may share an identifier, not everyone in the group may share the same life experiences. Wesley Connections groups centered on a particular aspect of identity should provide a safe space that may not be otherwise available for sharing common experiences.

“Interests” are another part of how we self-identify and may encompass a wide range of possibilities. Whether it is a penchant for ice cream or a passion for social justice, Wesley Connections groups centered on a common interest should be inclusive groups for kindred spirits.

All Wesley Connections groups may organize themselves as they see fit, but should bear the following guidelines in mind:

- Each group should agree upon its purpose, whether it is an opportunity to share experiences and learn more about a shared identity or simply a chance to get together and enjoy each other’s company. A group’s purpose may change from year to year.
- A “group” must consist of at least two individuals and must designate a facilitator as a point of contact and liaison with CODI.
- Once initiated, each group is autonomous but may utilize CODI as a resource for recruiting and publicizing events.
- Each group may determine whether it is intended for adults or entire families.
- In the spirit of inclusivity, allies should be welcome in all groups. At the same time, allies should understand their role and honor the voices and experiences of those who share a particular identifier.
- Members of a group should maintain confidentiality – Wesley Connections groups are not designed for gossip or to put down other groups or the school, but rather are designed to affirm the group that is gathering and to provide constructive feedback to the Wesley School when appropriate.
- Members of a group should honor diversity *within* the group.