

KANSAS CITY AREA CENTRAL OFFICE 200 EAST 18TH AVENUE NORTH KANSAS CITY, MO. 64116
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GROUP HISTORY PREPARED BY: Andy Trout

DATE: 10/22/2017

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: (785)979-5625

GROUP NAME South Leawood

DATE FOUNDED: June 1998

FOUNDER'S NAME & GROUP'S FOUNDERS CAME FROM: Kevin Kinsella (formerly from Little House before starting South Leawood), Dennis Nelson (now attends another group), Dennis Kaufman (back out)

EARLY MEMBERS: James Stallard, Francis Fields, Frank Dreiling, Mark Otterstedt (suicide)

PLACE OF FIRST MEETING: Same as current location: Covenant Chapel, but started in older part of church.

ORIGINAL MEETING TIMES: once a week; Sunday 7pm

CURRENT MEETING TIMES: everyday: 10 Am, 12pm (except 1pm Sun.), 5:30pm, 7pm with some additional times.

PRESENT MEMBERSHIP NUMBER: 350 members (EST.)

HAS THE GROUP MOVED? No

WHEN AND WHERE? N/A

GROUP HISTORY:

Formation

Meeting was founded because of the minister at Covenant Chapel in 1998, Tom Ryan, was a big fan of 12 step meetings, even though he did not qualify for membership himself, and wanted a membership of "wounded souls" at his church. The minister, Tom, was friends with Kevin Kinsella and approached him with the idea to start an AA meeting at the church.

Group Name

The group originally had no official name and was called "Covenant Chapel" or "Kevin's Group" until, at 6 months, the group decided to register with G.S.O. At that time the group was named after its location: South Leawood, to differentiate itself from Old Leawood, which already existed at the time of South Leawood's formation, and which still meets to this day.

Controversy

The group went through an upheaval when it was suggested that the meeting close with the Serenity Prayer, instead of the Lord's Prayer, as it had been closing with. It was finally determined that the group would close with either prayer. At this time, the closing prayer is left to the discretion of the individual meeting leader.

The Group has never sent out flyers to announce its existence.

Out of the 30+ current meetings, only 2 are Open meetings, and both are speaker meetings.

Growth

The group paid no rent for its first 2 years, at which time the group decided to become self-supporting and pay rent. Up until this point the group had remained 1 meeting a week on Sundays, but began to grow at the time of this decision. The founder feels there was a direct correlation between these 2 events.

The 1st additional meetings were added at the same original time: 7pm, on different nights.

The group started an annual group inventory at about 9 years old. The founder noticed an increase in attendance at this point in the group's history.

At 10 years the group had its own room built by the church to house the meetings.

Currently the group has 30+ meetings, with the most heavily attended meetings being the Monday, Wednesday 5:30pm meetings, as well as the Saturday 7pm weekly birthday meeting.

Founder's note

Kevin shared that the hardest thing for him to do was to outgrow being a bleeding deacon, and settle in as an elder statesmen. Before he transitioned he attended every meeting and monitored the activity at each one. He hit a bottom with this, as he states, and learned to let the group go, and manage itself. This was when the group was about 10 years old.