



Participant Handbook

2009 – 2010

Living Faith Fellowship
2601 Benham Avenue
Elkhart, IN 46517
www.lff.net/ConneXions
574-295-4357

CONNEXIONS HANDBOOK

Welcome to the ConneXions experience. The months you will spend in ConneXions will be transformational for your personal relationship with God, your interpersonal relationships, your approach to challenges and tasks, and your understanding of your place in God's plan.

ConneXions has the potential to change your life! It will prepare you to live the rest of your life in a meaningful, purposeful, productive way, unlike any other experience. You will come out of this experience knowing more of who you are in God and how He has uniquely designed you.

CONNEXIONS EXPECTATIONS

Cultivating and Reflecting Godly Character

During your time in ConneXions, you are expected to demonstrate the character of Jesus Christ in all your activities, including your personal time. By this, it is meant that you will so conform yourself to the challenges given to you that you will exclude all behavior that would prevent the fullest transformational experience possible. This includes:

- Continuing to apply yourself and keeping your focus on God, especially during times when you may struggle to endure.
- Using your time wisely and not allowing yourself to be distracted by ungodly entertainment of any type. A vital aspect of ConneXions is seeking God and yielding to the work He wants to do in you. Filling

your time and mind with movies or other diversions will hinder that process.

- Not pursuing emotional involvement with a person of the opposite gender. This will eliminate the distractions that would come from such a relationship. No pairing off!
- Not participating in physical activities that will compete with thorough immersion and involvement in the ConneXions experience (such as organized team sports or leisure sports on a regular basis, such as snowboarding/skiing, etc.).

Your time and energy are to be used for study, service projects, ministry experiences, prayer and fellowship with the saints.

Ministry Experience Expectations

The ConneXions experience is designed as an opportunity for you to grow spiritually and, in turn, to be able to help others grow as well. This, in part, will be accomplished by being involved in the following:

- Occasions in which you will be expected to lead others to Christ (training for this will be given prior to these opportunities)
- A monthly attendance at a Living Faith prayer meeting not directly related to ConneXions
- A Living Faith community group
- Attendance on Sunday mornings and Sunday evenings.

ATTENDANCE

Participants are expected to be in ConneXions **on time** every day and to participate in all events. **Punctuality** is a vital character quality that expresses consideration for others and their time. Repeated unexcused tardiness will result in progressive negative reinforcement and possible removal.

In some cases, participants may be excused to attend special events. However, these occasions are expected to be rare and only after receiving specific approval from the Director. Participants are responsible to communicate this expectation to their host and/or natural family.

Remember that ConneXions is a *serious experience*, meant for people with a *serious commitment*.

Doctor's appointments, etc., should be scheduled on Mondays. Appointments on other days of the week must be cleared by the Director.

If you are ill, please bring it to the attention of your team and other leaders who will pray with you. You are expected to "push through" for health and to "stay the course" as much as possible.

Do not misunderstand this to mean that if you are truly sick, you are expected to drag yourself around as an expression of your commitment. Just don't use "sickness" as an excuse to take a day off.

Inclement weather conditions may make it impossible to get to the building. We will close and delay 2hrs. whenever the Elkhart Community schools close and/or delay. Please

follow the schedule for Elkhart Community Schools unless I tell you otherwise.

BUILDING PROTOCOL

We are one group in a building that is used by many groups for many purposes. Please strive to be “examples to the flock,” particularly in love and respect. There will be many opportunities to be considerate in the use of Living Faith’s facilities and of others who use them, both on weekdays and weekends

General Stewardship of the Facility

Items in the church are for the use of the church. You are expected to be exemplary stewards of the resources provided. Make it a steadfast habit to ask before borrowing, to return all borrowed items promptly, to respect the personal work space of others, to restore order and cleanliness, to return chairs, tables, or other items to the place from which those items were taken; in short, to leave any area in as good as or better condition than it was before your arrival.

Kitchen Use

The kitchen is available for chilling and heating lunch items. Please make sure that all food is put away, dishes washed, and any mess cleaned up at the end of lunch time. Please show respect for others by refraining from eating any food that is not designated for your consumption! This includes rummaging through the cupboards and the refrigerator.

Leaving/Closing

If there is a need to leave the building during the day, please notify the Director.

When you're the last to leave a room, please shut off the lights, air conditioning or heat, close the blinds and lock the door (except for the Fireside Room).

Teams will take turns closing up the building at the end of the day. This involves making certain that doors are locked in all areas, including the kitchen and gym (except for those rooms still in use) and seeing that all air conditioning or heat has been shut off, particularly in ConneXions Hall.

OFFICE PROTOCOL

People come to this building for many reasons. Office staff is trained and responsible to respond to the doorbell. Please do not open the door just because you see someone trying to get in. Doing so may expose you to difficult and distracting circumstances. However, it is acceptable to open the door for someone you know.

Please remember that those in the office area have many tasks to do, as do you. Please avoid lengthy conversations with them. Conversing can take place during lunch. Also, please remember to keep your voices at a low level whenever you are in the office area, as loud noises can be a distraction from productive work.

Please respect all staff office areas. Do not read or remove anything in those areas. All staff computers are to be used only with permission.

CONNEXIONS HALL PROTOCOL

Use of Phones

Telephone calls can be made in case of an emergency. Speak with the Director if you need to make a call. When you do use any church phone, please keep your time on the phone to a minimum.

Cell phones are to be turned off during all cohort and team times, and are to be used only during specific break periods. Your family and friends understand that you are serious about this unique time in your life.

Food and Beverages

Food and beverages (other than water) are not allowed in ConneXions Hall. This is to eliminate unwanted “guests,” and to protect the electronic equipment and the carpet. Hot drinks and occasionally a snack will be available in the office during breaks, but they are to remain in the foyer area.

Study Areas and Resources

Computers are provided to facilitate your study and are to be used for doing research or for writing papers. This does **not include** “web surfing,” game playing, online shopping, etc. Time is short. Make it count! Be an encouragement and example to others by your diligence and use of time.

Printers will be accessible in ConneXions Hall.

Research books are kept in the ConneXions library. They can NOT be taken home. You will have plenty to do and time after 5:30pm to stay and do research as necessary.

Tapes and recorders are available, and can be checked out for use. Use the forms found there.

A copy machine is available in the secretary's office. You may access it during the day anytime it is not in use.

Study areas for personal and group study are in the gymnasium including, but not limited to: Room 8 and the Fireside Room. Other rooms may be available only on certain days. It is expected that some people will require absolute quiet and will prefer to sit at a table. Others may want to sprawl on the floor, and interact with a partner. Please always show a courteous respect for other's preferences.

A key will be available for access to ConneXions Hall. Please make sure that this key is put back **immediately** following its use. Others are also depending on it.

First aid kits can be found in ConneXions Hall (in tan cabinet by exit doors), in the janitor's closet (by the men's restroom), and the gym workroom (by the Fireside Room).

GROOMING AND DRESS PROTOCOL

Remember that you are ambassadors for Christ and that how you dress reflects His character and can express consideration of others. You are expected to be clean, well-groomed and modestly dressed. This means clothing neither too short nor too low for women, with midriffs and shoulders appropriately covered. Tight fitting clothing is inappropriate for both genders.

You will always need to have a pair of tennis shoes and gym clothes with you to change into for exercise time.

SCHEDULES

Normal Weekly Schedule

Sunday	Morning and evening church participation is required
Monday	Personal/work day
Tuesday	Team and personal learning
Wednesday	Team and personal learning
Wed. PM	Required participation in church meetings/events
Thursday	Morning – 1-1/2 hours seeking God together Afternoon – community outreach
Friday	Team and personal learning
Saturday	Collage of cohort activities

Normal Daily Schedule

8:25am	Must be signed in by this time
8:30-9:00	Personal Devotions
9:00– 9:30 (with office staff except on Thursdays)	Cohort Devotions
9:30 – 10:00	Team Worship & Prayer
10:00-11:55	Team and personal learning
12:00 – 12:25	Lunch
12:30 – 1:25	Service Projects
1:30 – 2:15	Physical Exercise Time
2:30 – 5:30	Ministry/LEs/Teaching