

TRUSTED ADVISORS

A peer group program for Christian business leaders from CBMC

“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.” – 1 Thes 5:11

What is the Trusted Advisors program?

- ◇ Trusted Advisors is a peer group program for Christian business leaders.
- ◇ The Trusted Advisors groups are composed of leaders that guide the focus and culture of their organizations including owners, presidents, CEOs, and COOs.
- ◇ The objective of Trusted Advisors is to help men grow as Godly men and Godly leaders.
- ◇ Trusted Advisors helps leaders grow and improve their businesses in a way that glorifies God.
- ◇ Trusted Advisors are groups of 8-12 men who are committed to helping each other grow.
- ◇ Trusted Advisors helps leaders integrate their Christian faith into their daily business activities.
- ◇ The peer group process of Trusted Advisors breaks through the isolation that many business leaders experience.

How does the Trusted Advisors program function?

- ◇ Trusted Advisor groups meet once a month for 3-5 hours as the group determines.
- ◇ The monthly meeting consists of a devotional, a lesson, a confidential discussion of one member’s business or personal issue, and prayer.
- ◇ Teaching provides a unique combination of best business practices with Biblical principles with a special focus on the “Christian Workview”, how our work is an important part of our ministry.
- ◇ Each Trusted Advisor group is led by a trained, volunteer facilitator.
- ◇ Groups are formed of 8-12 Christian leaders that practice the Biblical concept of “one anothering”, sharing encouragement, accountability, and advice with each other.
- ◇ Each Trusted Advisors member is committed to serving the group in confidentiality.
- ◇ Group members are selected to include non-competing businesses and to guard against conflicts of interest.

Is Trusted Advisors a proven program with demonstrated benefits?

- ◇ The Trusted Advisors program is new to Northeast Ohio but proven around the world.
- ◇ There are hundreds of Trusted Advisors groups and thousands of participating business leaders that are experiencing the benefit of Trusted Advisors across the USA and internationally.
- ◇ Trusted Advisors participants see the benefits of the program in their personal lives, their spiritual walk, their interpersonal relationships, their business results, and their impact in carrying out the Great Commission.

What are my next steps to move forward with Trusted Advisors?

For more information, visit our website at <http://neohio.cbmc.com/trustedadvisors> or contact the area coordinator, Ken Vaughan, at neohio@cbmc.com.

To apply to join a Trusted Advisors peer group, complete the application process at <http://neohio.cbmc.com/trustedadvisors/application>.

The Power of Peer Groups

By Ken Vaughan, New Horizon Partners, Inc.

Peer groups are a small group of like-minded individuals who regularly meet and are committed to helping each other grow in personal and business effectiveness. Participation in a peer group is one of the most effective tools for personal and leadership growth. Some of the advantages of participating in a good peer group include the following:

Escape the isolation trap of leadership. “It’s lonely at the top” is more than a cliché. Leaders can easily become isolated because they have no trusted peers within their organization with whom they can dig deep or share feelings and there are many business and leadership issues that they cannot profitably share at home. A group of peers can understand, accept, and respond appropriately to the struggles that a leader might face.

Gain different perspectives. We each see issues and challenges from a viewpoint that is based on our history of experiences and knowledge. Though a group may be composed of peers, each one will have a different perspective based on their own experiences and competencies. There is great value in hearing and considering a range of perspectives and alternative paths as we consider a decision.

Absorb emotional nutrients. Leaders are generally wired in such a way that they pour into other people’s lives. But they often are so busy doing so that they don’t have the time or else that don’t have the people that can pour into their lives. We are talking here about the emotional needs that all humans have to receive such things as acceptance, affirmation, containment, empathy, etc. The natural result of pouring out emotional support and lacking any inflow, is that our tanks run dry and we feel like we have little or nothing left to give. A group of peers can keep your tank full.

Learn from others’ competencies. With a group that has a mix of skills and backgrounds, there is much that can be gained in terms of both experience and depth of knowledge from other members of a peer group. The best groups will include people that have a range of backgrounds in their path to leadership. Exploring issues with a group that might include people who were once CFOs, sales and marketing executives, and technical experts can provide valuable advice.

Increase self-awareness. While advantages of a peer group include the combined wisdom and diverse skills and knowledge of the group, one of the greatest values of a peer group is its ability to help each individual dig deeper into themselves. This is accomplished through asking thought-provoking questions rather than providing answers and advice.

Benefit from accountability relationships. The best groups develop trusting relationships where the members can present a balance of grace and truth to each other. Committing to goals within a group that will hold us accountable makes the likelihood of achieving those goals vastly greater than our own private efforts.

Create a laboratory in which to practice. An upcoming difficult conversation can create a great deal of anxiety. We might question the right way to approach the discussion or whether we can be effective in presenting the information. In those circumstances, the chance to think through what that conversation might look like and to even practice it can reduce the anxiety and prepare for a positive and successful dialog.

Enjoy confidentiality. Leaders often deal with sensitive issues regarding the people around them. Outside input or perspective can be helpful, but leaders often have no place that they can discuss private information. A peer group that consists of trusted advisors who are able to maintain strict confidentiality is a valuable sounding board.

Receive guidance from a personal board of advisors. Organizations value a board of advisors that can become familiar with the organization and then provide suggestions and advice about future direction and decisions. In a similar way, a peer group can serve as an advisory board at the personal level for each of the group’s members. They can develop a deep knowledge of each other and provide input into the growth needs and plans of their compatriots.

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