



REFRESH COMMUNITY FOR SPOUSES

What is Refresh Community for Spouses?

Refresh Community for Spouses is a community of Christian spouses of Christian leaders committed to spurring one another on towards love and good deeds by learning together from Scripture and experience within a culture of grace, truth, and trust.

Who is Refresh Community for Spouses for?

Refresh Community for Spouses is an online community of encouragement and refreshment for Christian spouses of Christian leaders. Normally, participants must either be based in the UK and Ireland or people from the UK or Ireland serving in other countries. Living Leadership Affiliates in other European countries are also welcome to participate and we may invite other leaders from outside the UK and Ireland by special arrangement.

By 'leaders', we mean men and women holding positions of leadership in churches or Christian organisations whose work entails some element of soul care for others and ministry of the Word. That includes senior ministers and junior ministers, missionaries, and mission leaders, as well as people leading in specific ministry areas in a church or Christian organisation. It includes people who are paid, stipended or supported financially, lay leaders, bivocational workers and tentmakers.

By 'spouses' we mean a Christian, married to a 'leader' as defined above.

What happens in Refresh Community for Spouses?

Refresh Community for Spouses seeks to provide encouragement, training and support from Living Leadership staff and Associates along with others who love Jesus and His Church.

Meetings are hosted on Zoom and last one hour, including:

- Inspiring bible-grounded content about soul health from an experienced leader.
- Breakout groups facilitated by seasoned leaders to discuss and pray together.
- Feedback of ideas from the groups to the whole network.
- Occasional training on topics related to the life of a ministry spouse.

Breakout groups are a key part of the community and people stay in the same group for at least a season of Community meetings, allowing trusting relationships to develop over time. Group facilitators are ministry staff members or Associates of Living Leadership and operate within our Code of Conduct in Interpersonal Ministry.

Participants can request an individual appointment with their group facilitator for confidential advice and/or support. Group facilitators may also be in touch with participants between meetings, especially if regular participants miss meetings, to encourage and support them. To enable that, Living Leadership will share participants' contact details with

their group facilitators as needed. Facilitators are bound by Living Leadership's Data Protection Policy and will not use your details for any purpose unrelated to the Network. Participants are not required to attend every Refresh Community for Spouses session but are encouraged to keep in contact with other members of their group for support and prayer.

What values shape Refresh Community for Spouses?

Three key values guide us in Refresh Community for Spouses:

- *Grace* – in response to God's grace, seeking to understand, love, be patient with, and, when needed, to forgive one another. This includes handling diversity well (see below).
- *Truth* – speaking truthfully to one another, seeking God's truth, and keeping centred on Christ, who is *the Truth*.
- *Trust* – knowing that what is shared within the group will be treated as confidential within appropriate limits.¹

By participating in Refresh Community for Spouses, participants commit to adhere to these values. Individuals who breach these standards may be asked to leave the Community in order to protect others and ensure the community remains a safe place for all.

How do we handle diversity in Refresh Community for Spouses?

Refresh Community for Spouses, and the breakout groups within it, includes people from a range of churches who hold to diverse theological perspectives on issues that are not core to the gospel, for example:

- The role of women in ministry
- Views on baptism
- Views on Church Polity
- Gifts of the Spirit

While discussion around such matters might arise in a group, they are not the focus or aim of the Community, so we ask participants to avoid divisive conversations, to disagree agreeably if views are expressed that they don't agree with, and to focus on mutual encouragement.

What does participation in Refresh Community for Spouses cost?

In line with Living Leadership's core value of generosity, we want to serve the Church and its leaders as widely as possible. To ensure no one is unable to access our support, there is no charge to participate in Refresh Network Online.

Our ministries do, however, depend on the Lord's provision through his people. If you would like to support the ministry of Living Leadership financially, please [Donate online](#).

¹ Confidentiality cannot and will not be maintained: (i) When required by law or the courts to disclose information to the police or a Court; (ii) When an individual, especially a child or vulnerable adult, is or may be at risk of harm; (iii) When there is reason to believe a person is at risk of harming themselves.