



**MEN'S GOLF FELLOWSHIP**

***New  
Chapter  
Playbook***

***Growing in Faith with Golf Friends***



## **MEN'S GOLF FELLOWSHIP NEW CHAPTER PLAYBOOK**

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## **FORWARD & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Convention and good protocol dictate that certain conversation topics belong in their proper settings. The “faith/God” topic belongs in a church setting. Sports, business, the economy, politics, family, health and other topics are de rigueur most everywhere else.

When I started seriously considering retirement in 2002, I had just taken for granted that my faith-life, business-life and golf-life were separate spheres, with some common friendships in each. I didn’t consider it a big deal, and all three were working just fine. I was content to moderate my conversations and interactions accordingly.

Then my wife told me that I couldn't retire from business unless I had a ministry to take over my free time. If you knew my wife, you’d understand that this was non-negotiable. Thus began this extraordinary journey of Men’s Golf Fellowship (MGF).

Nothing of substance starts easily, and I won’t go into the learning curve and growing pains associated with the early years of MGF. Suffice it to say that we made mistakes—and probably lost some friends. Engaging in faith with peers/golf friends outside of church was unnatural at first. But it soon became obvious that God was behind this, and He was clearing the path ahead. God brought great men, some with faith and others with a glimmer, who caught the vision, got the idea, came along side us and helped bring MGF into the ministry it is today. I will be eternally grateful to all of those men.

We got the idea, format and starting point content for this Playbook from our good friends at New Canaan Society, which began in 1995 with a similar vision of changing the conversation with friends in the marketplace. This is a great group of guys, with chapters around the country, from whom we’ve learned a lot.

This Playbook (and indeed, the entire MGF journey) could not have been possible without the hands-on involvement of the amazing group of talented men who make up our MGF National team. Thanks to all of you. You are the best!

You're reading this now because you've either already joined the MGF journey or are considering getting on board. What follows in this *MGF Chapter Playbook* is our best shot at describing everything you need to know about starting an MGF chapter in your area, thereby joining a growing team of men around the country committed to advancing our mission of *growing in faith with golf friends*.

Yours for the MGF journey,

***Steve***

Steve Silver  
Founder

## THE MGF MISSION

### What is Men's Golf Fellowship?

Men's Golf Fellowship (MGF) was formed in 2003 to help address the spiritual needs of golf friends. Our friends are open to learning about a personal relationship with God, and want to explore questions related to their faith, but don't necessarily have a forum to do so. MGF provides that opportunity.

### What is Our Mission?

Our mission is to create opportunities for golf friends throughout the country to help each other make Christ the central part of their personal and professional lives. Our motto, *Growing in Faith With Golf Friends*, captures our mission.

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## MGF IN SUMMARY

Some of our golf friends are less inclined to reflect on an often-neglected subject that is important to all of us: where we stand with God. Men's Golf Fellowship provides a comfortable and enjoyable setting for friends to hear each other talk about their life and faith, and to grow personally and spiritually in the process. While we are a Christian organization, the intent of MGF is to engage all men—from men of little or no faith to men of mature faith—to help them enjoy the fellowship of others. MGF is often a “first step” for men to begin their faith journey. Knowing this, we consider MGF a “First Touch” ministry and have designed our approach accordingly. We welcome all men, golfers or not.

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## HOW MGF CAME TO BE

Men's Golf Fellowship was founded in 2003 by Steve Silver in an effort to merge two of the passions of his life: his love of golf and his love of the Lord. He had friends in both spheres, but there was little overlap. Golf was fun, but faith was more serious. Conversations around golf were natural, spontaneous and

enjoyable and new friendships were easily made. Conversations around faith were more guarded and difficult, and weren't as easily formed. Steve invited ten Christian golf friends and acquaintances to meet with him to explore how to bring these worlds together.

What emerged from their discussions was *Men's Golf Fellowship*—a program that would bring men from both spheres together in a common setting that promoted enjoyable fellowship around the combined themes of golf and faith. The idea was to have a breakfast meeting, giving men a chance to have some fellowship and hear a good presentation from someone with whom the men could relate. Each of the original ten men were asked to invite ten of their friends and soon MGF was on its way.

The first meeting of MGF took place in Naples, Florida and attracted about 100 men. Today Men's Golf Fellowship includes many men in MGF chapters around the country, with new chapters starting each year.

Through the years, Men's Golf Fellowship has featured outstanding speakers. Men who have distinguished themselves in their careers are invited to speak with one simple request: "Talk about your career, talk about your life and talk about your faith". Prominent professional golfers, corporate executives, political and military leaders, writers, entrepreneurs and men in other fields address our chapters yearly.

Two things that all of the speakers have in common are: They have achieved success in varying degrees; and they are comfortable in talking about their faith. It is this second factor, men talking about their faith, which is the unique strength of MGF.

A key step in the evolution of MGF was the decision to have the speakers' talks professionally video-taped and edited for use as discussion topics/starters by golf friends meeting together in their individual clubs (MGF Fellowship Groups). These are safe and comfortable environments for men who have faith questions and a desire to participate in and contribute to hearing discussions about the challenges and opportunities facing them and how their faith can play a role.

## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

MGF chapters are guided by a few simple principles:

**We engage a “first touch” approach**— Knowing that MGF is a “first step” for many of our friends in exploring a personal relationship with Christ, we are sensitive to where they are in all that we do.

**All men are welcome**— Whether or not they are golfers.

**MGF is a safe place**— “*What is said here stays here.*”

**We meet in neutral ground**—Country clubs and other quiet and private settings.

**We are self-sustaining**—There are no dues or fees to be a “member,” and we don’t proactively seek donations. What support we do receive comes from unsolicited offers to help.

**We are a movement**—We view MGF more as a *movement*, than as formal organization with many rules, regulations and protocols.

**All our leadership comes from our ranks**—While some church leaders and pastors may attend, they are not the leaders of any MGF chapters and don’t lead MGF Fellowship Groups.

**We are all volunteer**—While leadership is essential, no one in MGF receives compensation.

## WHAT WE ARE

MGF creates a place where guys can just be. No one cares about your credentials. Here guys can grow in friendship with others, share their stories, their personal challenges, their lives. It is where a guy can process where he is and bring better perspective to his life.

If you were to ask what is the **DNA** of MGF, it is really all about **life stories**—simply, that MGF encourages men to share their personal journey.

By now it should be clear that MGF is very much about finding your identity and your identity is not what you do or did for a living. MGF is not about performance. It is about who you are as a man.

We have seen that as a man grows in strong friendships, as he can be transparent and trusted, and has a growing relationship with the Lord—he has obtained the essential essence of a life well-lived for the Lord.

MGF chapters are focused on helping men to know who they are and encouraging them to grow in their faith.

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## WHAT WE ARE NOT

Some folks have found it instructive to consider what MGF is **NOT**:

***We are not a men's program from a church or any denomination.***

***We are not a Bible Study***—although many MGF men do read the Bible, and scripture is often referenced to illuminate our conversations.

***We are not a prayer meeting***—although we encourage men to pray with and for each other.

***We are not a counseling service***—although there is no doubt we have many stories of guys' lives being changed for the better.



## THE VALUES WE HOLD CLOSE

MGF has been inspired and steadied by a commitment to certain **Core Values**:

**“First Touch” Approach**—A treasured attribute of MGF is that we engage together with one common purpose...*to grow in faith with golf friends*. This entails involving men of varying levels of exposure to, perspective on and experience with Christianity. Thus, we are sensitive to ensuring that the language we use and the conversations we have are comfortable and productive for all, and by no means exclude any.

**Friendship**—Friendship for MGF is really the start of a journey of faith to a kind of wholeness that is, at once, discovery and transformation—deepening friendship with other men and with Jesus.

**Safety & Trust**—MGF is a safe place where we *figure it out, support each other and talk things through*. What is said at MGF stays at MGF.

**Authenticity & Vulnerability**—Authenticity is being honest about where you are. Vulnerability goes one step farther and allows other guys into your life and invites their involvement. It is permission to speak into your life.

**By Men, For Men**—At MGF, we prefer to talk about our fears, failures, problems and breakthroughs with other men who know exactly what we’re going through and are encouraging.

**Family Relationships As Primary**—In MGF, we believe that our effectiveness as husbands, fathers, sons and grandfathers informs and influences all other relationships. While often the hardest to figure out and get “right,” we place a lot of emphasis on helping each other become successful in these *primary* relationships.

**Humility Above All**—We have yet to meet a man in MGF where *pride* isn’t their greatest enemy. In MGF, we seek to recognize and break down pride in ourselves by discussing its many manifestations in our lives, and how we’re addressing and overcoming it—and in so doing enhance all of our relationships.

## HOW WE DO WHAT WE DO

Men's Golf Fellowship consists of Chapters and Fellowship Groups. **Chapters** are structured geographically (cities or regions around the country) and entail a leadership team committed to maintaining MGF's "guiding principles" and "core values." **Fellowship Groups** are smaller groups within chapters, which meet regularly in members' clubs or in other private/comfortable settings. Following are brief descriptions of both.

### MGF Chapters

MGF chapters are the heartbeat of what we do. These are where men meet at scheduled intervals to hear a live or videotaped MGF speaker who shares a personal story that challenges and gives insight into the kinds of real-life situations many men are facing. A breakfast or other meal is almost always a part of the chapter meeting.

Chapter meetings are a place where guys enjoy each other's company and begin to learn how to support each other when and where it matters most. They are where men come to recognize a greater need for others and for the Lord.

### MGF Fellowship Groups

When MGF chapters get going, something unique happens: smaller groups of golf friends experience a deeper level of caring for each other. MGF chapter leaders encourage these smaller clusters of "golf friends" to meet in **Fellowship Groups**.

It is within these more intimate groups of guys (perhaps 8 - 12 men) that one really gets close-knit. They meet on a regular basis and use MGF videos/discussion materials, or other resources to facilitate their conversations. Fellowship Groups are for men who pursue being authentic and who want others to hold them to that standard. It is here that the walls break down, more meaningful friendships come together, and stronger faith formation takes place.

Some chapters choose to conduct larger Fellowship Group meetings of 20-30 men, thereby effectively combining their Chapter meeting with their Fellowship Group meeting. This is a perfectly fine "hybrid" approach which can work well.

## GETTING STARTED

While there's intentionally no "cookie cutter" approach to starting an MGF chapter, we know from experience that it is good to try to follow the best practices listed here. Pray for wisdom in all of this as you proceed.

- **Gather Your Core Group:** Share this playbook, talk out the commitment level, determine a host location (usually a country club space) and put a little seed money on the line to cover start-up costs (if there are any).
- **Spend Time Together:** Get the feel of the environment when everyone is on board. Nourish friendships among the core team. These will set the tone when you open up to a wider audience.
- **Visit an Active MGF Meeting.** While your MGF National team coach will be your primary point-of-contact, visiting another chapter or speaking with other chapter leaders by phone will be very helpful. There you'll see or hear about MGF in action and learn about what has worked well—as well as areas where they learned from their start-up mistakes.
- **Conduct a Chapter Kickoff Meeting:** After the above three steps, invite a broader group of golf friends to introduce your new chapter.
- **Commit to the MGF "DNA."** Make the sharing of "life stories" a core part of your meetings, including on the part of your speakers.
- **Have Time for Questions When You Meet:** Save time for questions after the talk and especially during the more intimate Fellowship Groups.
- **Humor Is Essential:** Be sure to keep things light. Encourage fun, as appropriate, in meetings.
- **Meet Regularly:** Some chapters meet year-round. Others meet seasonally. Either way, it's best to have a meeting schedule which best accommodates your group. We have found that meeting once or twice a month usually works best.

- **Start Fellowship Groups:** Fellowship Groups will eventually become an essential and central part of your chapter. These are the life-blood behind your growth as a chapter, and as individuals.
- **Pray for Guidance for Effective Chapter Leadership:** Other than the Holy Spirit, the entire success of a chapter is based on the leadership capabilities of the chapter core group.

### ***Learning From Failure and From Success***

Put the drive to be perfect behind you. At MGF, we believe that failure is a part of getting to success. We have made mistakes along the way and have learned from them. These are a few of the things we've learned from our mistakes:

- **Start Up When the Essentials Are in Place:** Don't make the mistake of opening your doors too quickly without the proper leadership team in place. There are no set rules as far as to how long a chapter leadership team should meet and pray until they open their doors to a broader group. A good rule of thumb would be to follow the Holy Spirit's lead and make sure the entire leadership team agrees when you are ready.
- **Avoid "Lighting Rod" topics:** We have NO opinion on outside issues. We never discuss topics that appear divisive. For example, we don't discuss Christian denominational differences and avoid presenting our political positions and opinions.
- **Leave Agendas at the Door:** We've learned that it's best not to advance, promote or sponsor businesses, non-profits or fundraising of any kind in the name of MGF, no matter how worthy the cause.

## ***Some Things We Have Done Right***

There are plenty of things that we've done well throughout the years. With several strong MGF chapters, and many MGF Fellowship Groups operating effectively, we realize this has come from the grace of God—as none of us are all that smart.

- **Prayer Is Foundational:** We begin and end every meeting and every get-together with prayer. Many times we don't know where to turn or what to do or say next and the Holy Spirit is there to guide us.
- **Start Small, Keep It Close, Until You're Ready:** We keep a small, closed group before opening the doors, not worrying about metrics or numbers, but relationships. We realize that we need a solid core group and are willing to wait it out and get it right, rather than rush things for the sake of quick growth.
- **Honor Time Commitments:** We are careful to be prompt about starting and ending all MGF meetings on time. Your members will respect, appreciate and count on that.
- **Authenticity and Vulnerability is Essential:** A key attribute of MGF is the authenticity of our men and a uniform willingness to be open, vulnerable and unguarded. Having a willingness to share our thoughts and feelings without judgment brings about the intimacy necessary for developing deeper relationships and growing in faith together. We reinforce this a lot.

## MGF SUPPORT

New MGF chapters will have resources to help you and your core team in launching and operating your chapter. These include:

**MGF Headquarters Support:** The MGF national team will connect with you to help with.

- Leadership coaching.
- Kickoff meeting support.
- Support with your local MGF website and mailing lists.
- A Governing Board to help handle issues and provide direction.

**Access to Speakers:** While we encourage you to invite local men in your network who can share their stories at your meetings, sometimes we can help access other great speakers in your area—or even beyond your area. We can also recommend particularly appropriate “on screen” speakers from our extensive library of great MGF speaker videos.

**Web Presence for Chapters:** Every chapter gets its own “micro-site” customized to meet your style and local needs. It is linked to all the resources on the national MGF website. ([www.mensgolffellowship.com](http://www.mensgolffellowship.com)).

- You can customize your look and feel with access to all MGF National content, but with your own place for posting announcements and local content. We can help with this.
- The local chapter microsite will also provide a way for your chapter to stay linked with other MGF chapters.

**Tailored Local Chapter Branding:** With the MGF logo in digital formats for use with your materials, whether printed or online, we can help your local team in preparing quality pieces.

**Content Library:** We have gathered content (MGF speaker videos and Fellowship Group discussion materials) that we believe is of interest to men like us. We have curated a common learning experience—a baseline of knowledge for MGF men.

**Coaching from Other Chapter Leaders:** New chapter leaders can have a seasoned chapter leader (coach) at their disposal, preferably one that is geographically close, to help answer their questions and encourage them. Setting up a monthly call or meeting can be helpful to both the coach and the new chapter leader. The MGF National team will facilitate this.

## SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

If you've gotten this far and the lights are still blinking green for starting an MGF chapter in your area, then we must be in alignment. Men's Golf Fellowship isn't for everyone, and doing it effectively will take some time and commitment from you and your core team. It will also take a commitment from us in MGF National to effectively coach and support you, especially when starting.

The following *Appendix* goes into a little more detail about how to organize and get started; and about some of the tools available to assist you in that process.

Since MGF chapters are not a "one size fits all" proposition, there are a variety of ways to get started, and we'll help you figure out what works best for you. We've found that the only common denominator for "success" with an MGF chapter is that those who take it on "get" and resonate to our vision, genuinely want to be a part of our movement, and are willing to "sign up" (so to speak) with the *Guiding Principles* and *Core Values* described in this Playbook.

If that describes you, and we mutually agree that this makes sense for advancing God's Kingdom into the golf communities in your area, then let's get going. That begins with an in-depth phone conversation with one of our MGF National team leaders who have been through what you are considering; and scheduling an in-person meeting in your area with your Core Team. At that meeting, we'll answer your questions and help craft a *Startup Plan* which fits the unique needs and desires of your team for your area.

We hope this Playbook has been helpful and are excited to work with you to make Men's Golf Fellowship a place where many men will be ***Growing in Faith With Golf Friends*** in your area over the years to come.



## **APPENDIX**

- About Our Logo
- Chapter Organization Structure
- Chapter Kickoff Meeting
- Running Ongoing Chapter Meetings
- Organizing Fellowship Groups
- Chapter Marketing Tools
- Handling Chapter Finances
- MGF National Team and Board

## ABOUT OUR LOGO



Our logo is a variation of the Chi Rho symbol. The Chi Rho is a Christian symbol for “Christ” written by superimposing the two Greek letters “Chi (X)” and “Rho (P)” which are the first two letters in Greek of the name of “CHRist.” In our case, the Chi (X) is the crossed golf clubs and the Rho (P) is the golf flag. Alpha (A) and Omega (Ω) are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, and a title of Christ and God in the Book of Revelation, referring to Him as the “Beginning” and the “End”.



The first public use of the Chi Rho symbol was on the labarum, the shield of Constantine’s warriors in the Battle of Milvian Bridge on October 28, 213 AD. Emperor Constantine (reigned 306-337) and his troops saw a miraculous sign in the sky the day before the battle. Emperor Constantine won the Battle of Milvian Bridge and believed he won because of the symbol of Christ, the Chi Rho, upon the shields of his men. Several months later, Constantine in the Edict of Milan declared Christianity legal in the Roman Empire. The almost three hundred years of Imperial Persecution against Christians were over.

## **CHAPTER ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE**

Each chapter will have different needs and capabilities as determined by size, demographics and availability of volunteer resources. However, listing operating responsibilities and assigning names is a good starting point. Your structure will change over time, as will the names. We have found, however, that it's a good idea to regularly refer back to this with your core group. Below is a list of the basic responsibilities associated with an MGF chapter.

**GOVERNANCE:** Maintaining MGF guiding principles and core values.

**FINANCE:** Handling chapter meeting-related expenses. (Breakfasts, etc).

**SPEAKERS:** Inviting live speakers and determining video-speakers.

### **CHAPTER MEETINGS:**

- Club logistics.
- Greeters/money collection (for breakfasts)
- Announcements
- Emcee meetings

### **FELLOWSHIP GROUPS:**

- Fellowship Group leader selection/support
- Discussion resources

### **ADMINISTRATION:**

- Meeting announcements, reservations and confirmations
- Mailing list maintenance
- Marketing and promotion efforts and materials

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

- Work with golf clubs and other organizations to identify new members.
- Encourage other members to invite friends
- Ensure that the MGF mission is clearly communicated

## CHAPTER KICKOFF MEETING

This is where the rubber meets the road. When your core group believes it's ready to invite golf friends to learn about MGF, go ahead and set the date/location and send out an invitation. Your MGF Coach will help with this since he's already been through it. He will probably want to attend as well and provide some comments. The meeting should include a light meal and not be more than 90 minutes in length, including socializing and eating. The actual program (including Q & A) should only take about 45 minutes. Following is a sample meeting invitation and a suggested script & video for the program itself.

### *Sample Meeting Invitation*



Gentlemen—*Men's Golf Fellowship* (MGF) began in Naples, Florida in 2003 with the goal of engaging golf friends in conversations about their spiritual journeys and important issues facing men today. Many clubs have started chapters and men are gathering to learn, share and grow together. You can learn more by visiting the MGF website, downloading a brochure and viewing a brief introductory video from the links below.

You are cordially invited to attend the kickoff meeting for the **(NEWLY NAMED)** chapter of Men's Golf Fellowship.

- **(DATE & TIME)**
- **(LOCATION ADDRESS)**
- Hosted by: **(CHAPTER LEADER NAMES)**

Our featured speaker will be Steve Silver, Founder of Men's Golf Fellowship and author of *New Man Journey*

Please RSVP to **(YOUR NAME/EMAIL ADDRESS)** or call **(YOUR PHONE #)**

[Visit Our Website](#) [Download a Brochure](#) [View Our Video](#)

***www.mensgolf fellowship.com***

## ***Kickoff Meeting Script & Video***

### MGF Introduction

- Men's Golf Fellowship (MGF) was founded in Naples, Florida in 2003 by Steve Silver in an effort to merge two of the passions of his life: his love of golf and his love of the Lord.
- Steve had friends in both spheres, but there was little overlap. Steve invited ten Christian friends and acquaintances to meet with him to explore how to bring these two worlds together.
- What emerged from those discussions was "Men's Golf Fellowship"—a program that would bring men together in a common setting that promoted enjoyable fellowship around the combined themes of golf and faith. The motto of the group became "*Growing in Faith With Golf Friends*."
- The idea quickly took hold in Southwest Florida. Fast-forward (15) years and there are now MGF chapters meeting regularly in other areas around the country.
- Breakfast speakers over the years have included prominent local leaders and nationally recognized professional golfers, political leaders, corporate CEOs, economists, writers, journalists, and others. All speaker talks are posted on the MGF website and many include discussion guides to facilitate topical conversations in (smaller) MGF Fellowship Groups.
- With a clear vision from the Lord, a strong network of men, and an operating model that has proven to fulfill the original mission of *Growing in Faith With Golf Friends*—our MGF National team recently decided to establish a 501 (C) (3) corporation and formulate a plan for expanding MGF to other chapters around the country. And that brings us to (YOUR AREA) today.
- We have a brief video to show you, which captures our story. (Link below)

**<https://vimeo.com/227134036>**

## RUNNING ONGOING CHAPTER MEETINGS

Once you are ready to go, follow a simple approach, such as the one below.

**Food:** Breakfast (or dinner) buffet style so it won't interfere with greeting and listening to others. Let the men warm up over good food.

**Opening Greeting:** Let the hosts greet everyone. Keep your announcements short. Always let newcomers know they are welcome and how they can connect with others.

**Prayer:** Have a small group pray privately with the speaker prior to the meeting. Offer a short opening prayer at the beginning of the meeting.

**Speaker Introduction:** Welcome and introduce the speaker (be certain to confirm in advance that the speaker must finish up in time for men to leave on schedule).

**The "Talk":** The speaker (who may be a part of the membership or an outside guest) usually talks about 30 - 40 minutes, then opens the session for questions if time permits. Most talks entail about 1/3 personal story, 1/3 professional story and 1/3 faith journey—finishing with that.

**Meeting Sign-Off:** Close the gathering with prayer, and maybe a gentle "benediction" or some action that is unique to your chapter.

**Invite Them Back:** Dismiss with an invitation to come back to the next meeting — highlighting time, date, speaker and (live or video) format.

**Stick Around Afterwards:** The core team, or someone from the core, sticks around for those who want to ask questions, talk a little longer or need help or prayer.

**Meeting Frequency:** Meet on a regular basis as determined by the core team, but at least once or twice a month during your MGF season. Meeting together any less than that doesn't develop community.

**Humor Always:** Oh yes, and don't forget that lubricating the meeting with some light humor goes a long way to making things welcoming and easy.

## **ORGANIZING FELLOWSHIP GROUPS**

*PLEASE REFER TO THE “MGF FELLOWSHIP GROUP LEADER’S MANUAL” FOR MORE INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTION ON LEADING MGF FELLOWSHIP GROUPS*

### ***Nature of a Fellowship Group***

MGF Fellowship Groups are the best place for men to grow in their faith. That will happen when the meetings have honest personal and faith discussions. Discussion is often generated by the video content of MGF speakers, facilitated by MGF discussion guides around those talks. A relaxed and safe place, like a quiet room in your clubhouse, is the preferred location to meet.

A Fellowship Group is not a Bible Study, although groups often look at the wisdom offered by the Bible on practical issues. It also isn’t a course in religion or theology, and MGF is not affiliated with any denomination (although we are unapologetically Christian). It is definitely not a group confessional. While members of the group are encouraged to take part in the discussions, participation is voluntary.

Members of the group are welcome to go to any of the sessions and don’t need to make an on-going commitment. The program is designed to allow participants to attend any or all sessions without feeling that they have missed something by not attending previous sessions. Out of town guests who are visiting members are welcome to join the member in attending the group during their visit.

An important commitment that the men make to each other is that all discussions remain private. As a result, levels of trust and confidence are developed over time that enhance and enrich relationships between the men.

### ***First Steps When Starting a Fellowship Group***

An MGF Fellowship Group will only be successful if a strong and dedicated leader is involved during its formation. Leadership can be one or two men of mature faith who have a sound understanding of the Bible. (See “Fellowship Group Leader Profile” below). Although Fellowship Groups are not Bible studies, the

discussion leaders need to be comfortable with anchoring discussion topics in Biblical terms. Fellowship Groups sprout naturally from the MGF chapter breakfasts/banquets, but strong leadership is required to put them together. Some suggestions for prospective leaders when starting a group are:

- Find at least one other person who has a solid faith foundation to support the startup, including assistance with recruiting and decision-making.
- Meet with existing MGF Fellowship Group leaders and learn from their experience and suggestions.
- Attend existing MGF Fellowship Group meetings of one or more groups to get a feel for the group in action.
- Become a regular attender of the MGF chapter breakfasts/banquets.
- Become familiarized with the MGF Fellowship Group Leader's Manual.
- Review the [www.mensgolffellowshp.com](http://www.mensgolffellowshp.com) web site to learn more about MGF Fellowship Group discussion resources.

### ***Fellowship Group Leader Profile***

- He is an influence in the club and works well with others.
- He values the “first touch” nature of MGF groups.
- He is good listener—valuing each man's personal journey.
- He has a willingness and ability to dedicate time.
- He is receptive to coaching.
- He is willing to share leadership with others in the group.
- He is receptive to aligning with other MGF Fellowship Group leaders for idea/suggestion exchanges.



## MARKETING TOOLS

Our style in MGF is not to over-market or over-promote. We believe that if we operate effectively, keeping true to our mission and core values, and discreetly share our story with golf friends—men will be attracted to MGF and want to participate.

Having said that, there are a few “marketing” tools we have developed to make your job of communicating the MGF story easier. These include:

- Our MGF Intro Video
- Our MGF Brochure
- Our MGF Logo Image *(for use in local printed and digital materials)*
- Our MGF Poster Images *(for use as chapter meeting displays)*
- Our MGF Table Cards *(for use in gathering participant info at chapter meetings)*
- Our MGF Founder’s Corner *(interviews with/articles by Steve Silver)*
- Steve Silver’s book—*New Man Journey: Finding Meaning in Retirement*

All of these tools can be accessed on the RESOURCES page of the MGF website.

## HANDLING CHAPTER FINANCES

Handling finances in new MGF chapters is relatively straightforward and simple. There may be small startup expenses associated with your chapter kickoff meeting to cover invited guests and miscellaneous speaker expenses. *[NOTE: MGF speakers don't receive a speaker fee or honorarium.]*

Subsequent meetings are usually “breakeven” with the hosting club, since members are charged the same amount for food/service as that agreed to by the club. “Startup expenses” typically cover speaker travel expenses (when coming from out of town) as well as small costs associated with printed materials. Some chapters video prominent speakers and utilize professional videographers. These are also covered in start-up expenses.

Small first year startup expenses are typically provided by the core team members and can be covered by a tax-deductible donation to Men's Golf Fellowship, Inc.—our National 501 (3) (C) entity. 100% of that donation is placed in a sub-account for your chapter and reimbursements are made against that amount by way of quarterly expense submissions from the chapter leader.

When it makes sense for your chapter to operate independently (as determined by larger operating expense requirements) you will be eligible to establish your own 501 (C) (3) tax-free structure under the IRS-granted umbrella that Men's Golf Fellowship holds. **(Applies to larger chapters after first year of operation).**

It should be noted here that MGF holds a firm policy of not proactively seeking donations from its members, and relies exclusively on unsolicited contributions from a relatively small number of individuals. There is no “DONATE” button on the MGF website and we make no mention of funds, nor engage in fundraising activity for MGF or for any other organizations (regardless of merit). This position has been carefully crafted and maintained over the years to distinguish MGF as a place where money is not needed from nor expected by its members, thereby keeping our agenda as simply to *grow in faith with golf friends*.

## **MGF NATIONAL TEAM & BOARD**

With a clear vision from the Lord, a strong network of men, and an operating model, which has proven to fulfill the original mission of *Growing in Faith With Golf Friends*—our MGF National team established a 501 (C) (3) corporation in 2016 and formulated a plan for expanding MGF to chapters around the country.

Our MGF National team structure is comprised of a team of exceptionally talented and committed individuals with various responsibilities for effectively fulfilling our mission today and into the future. In addition, we are governed by a four-man Board of Directors responsible for maintaining our legal requirements as a 501(C) (3) corporation, and for overseeing the MGF National leadership team.

Our leadership style in MGF is not to over-market, over-promote or over-control. We believe that if we operate effectively as a “movement” (versus a “command and control” organization), keep true to our mission and core values, and lead by example—the MGF vision will spread and our organization will expand in accordance with God’s timing and plan. We are careful not to get ahead of Him, nor to miss doors He is opening.