

What is Covenant Community at Watershed?

We desire Watershed to be a welcoming and sharing community based on the self-giving life of Christ. We hope to be a place where individuals can experience the freedom to be themselves in the company of fellow sisters and brothers.

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

• John 12:24



We find ourselves forgiven sinners within God's immense world of grace! Consequently, our commitment is to be authentic and vulnerable, inviting input into our lives, open to one another's exhortation and encouragement. We can let go of our fears, developing relationships and vocations based on listening to the Spirit.

A 'watershed' marks a turning point. An intentional choice is integral to be a part of our covenant community. That decision signifies a new direction for our lives.

Like the underground stream that nourished life under the ancient temple in Ezekiel's vision, our name reminds us that we have a deep desire to be fed by God's Spirit. Our commitment to God, and each other, does not depend on our own efforts. Everything we are and do is a response to God's loving Presence. We perceive God's call through prayer and community mentorship. The Spirit is already present among us. Our goal is to get out of the way and let the Light shine through.

I saw water pouring out from under the Temple porch to the east... Wherever the river flows, life will flourish.

• Ezekiel 47:1,9

Our core commitment is a desire to follow Jesus Christ, as he is revealed in Scripture, and as interpreted within community with Spirit as our



guide. We choose to form our values and priorities with Christ as the organizing centre of our lives. All other roles and identities take on less significance as we identify more and more with Christ. Helping one another develop a living relationship to Christ is integral to covenant community. This occurs within friendships of mutual trust. By following the way of Christ, we commit to freely share our gifts for the enrichment of the whole community.

We hope to combine covenant community, a counter-cultural form of spirited life together, and a joyful inclusivity with others. We call this extending the 'big tent'. We are moving our 'stakes' out so that more people can benefit from the life of informal study, worship and service we've greatly enjoyed together.

Everyone is welcome to participate in bi-weekly worship in our homes, weekly study

courses, bi-monthly movie nights, bi-annual retreats and other activities. Those who visit and participate at Watershed, and have positive relationships to the group, are 'Friends of Watershed'.

Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes.

• Isaiah 54:2

The core covenant group has felt called to make a yearly commitment to God and each other. We have also enjoyed the benefits of people joining us without this commitment. Friends are free to join Watershed's life at their own pace, and are more than welcome to grow into further commitment with our covenant group.

Just as Jesus depended on God alone while living in the company of his disciples, we are committed to 'standing alone together'. As our spiritual walk bears the fruit of God's loving awareness, we hope our life together will be a resource to our Friends, as we are also ministered to by them.

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If you have questions about what covenant community or being a Friend of Watershed means, please ask. We would love to continue the lively conversation about covenant with you.

Intentional Covenant in a Nutshell

1. We desire to recognize our union with Christ's life, death and resurrection. His life is a living template, placed over our own, empowering us toward daily participation in his risen presence in the world.
2. We desire to authentically share our gifts with each other and our neighbour for our mutual benefit.
3. We desire to invite input from others into our lives.



Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. • *Philippians 2:1-2*

Covenant Community Quotes

Stop at the crossroads and look around; ask for the ancient paths. Where is the good way? Then walk in it and find a resting place for yourselves. • *Jeremiah 6:16*

If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part gets the glory, all the parts celebrate with it. You are the body of Christ and parts of each other. • *1 Cor. 12:26-27*

So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived! • *2 Cor. 5:17*

I encourage you to live as people worthy of the call you received from God. Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together. You are one body and one spirit, just as God also called you in one hope. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all. • *Ephesians 4:1-6*

More: *Romans 12: 3-5; Galatians 5:22-24; Acts 2:42-47; Acts 4:32; Hebrews 10: 24-25*

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Watershed Community
Integrating Spirit and Learning



**What is
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