

DOWNTOWN WINDSOR COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE COVENANT 2021-2022

INTRODUCTION

This Covenant lays out our way of life. We are a 'contrast' community of the Kingdom of Heaven, the body of Jesus in a particular place, namely downtown Windsor. This relationship is a 'two-way street' in that each person is both giving and receiving. Participation in DWCC does not require covenant membership, but it does lay out core practices we are invited to live out. As people who are baptized into the reconciling mission of God, we aspire to live out a set of practices that cultivate our relationship with God, our relationship with a loving community in a particular neighbourhood, and our own incarnational life rooted in my neighbourhood.

"UP" / OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

The rhythm of life is aspiring to enjoy companionship with Jesus. We long for an ever maturing life-long relationship with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Rhythms and practices create space for an enriching awareness of God's presence, love, and participation in His mission.

PRACTICES FOR CULTIVATING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD



WEEKLY SABBATH

Taking time out of our week to disconnect from productive activity to rest and rejoice in our relationship with Jesus.



DAILY PATTERN OF PRAYER

Fitting our day's agenda into God's calendar. We stop and pray, joining in spirit with those across the parish and around the world in prayer.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS & REFLECTION

God continues to speak with us through a consistent engagement of the Scriptures.

"IN" / OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH A LOVING COMMUNITY

The rhythm of life is aspiring to walk with a loving community through practices that encourage and deepen our relationships with one another.

I identify with the loving community located in _____ neighbourhood.
We are willing to care for and to be cared for by this loving community.

We realize the importance of connecting regularly and will make every effort to be present and participate. We will pray regularly for the members and the wellbeing of the loving community.

We will keep confidential all that's shared, and will protect each person's integrity. We will participate in the reconciliation of conflict in relationship.

PRACTICES FOR CULTIVATING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER



SHARING MEALS

Sharing our abundance with one another through meal trains, meals at tables, sharing life, and our regularly practice of Eucharist.



SERVING ONE ANOTHER

Taking a posture of servant-leadership to look out for the needs of others in our midst. This includes our regularly practice of foot washing.



PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Making space in our lives to intercede on behalf of others, to know their needs and to pray for them.

"OUT" / OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR NEIGHBOURS

The rhythm of life we aspire to is incarnation. Having a regular presence in our parish provides the relational opportunities for seeing strangers become friends and hopefully fellow followers of Jesus.

We pursue simplicity to increase space in our day for freedom to 'zigzag'; as to intentionally impact and be involved in my community, as the Spirit leads. We will reshape our habits and patterns to do life in the parish.

PRACTICES FOR CULTIVATING AN INCARNATIONAL LIFE



FAITHFUL PRESENCE

Aspiring to do the everyday stuff of life - living, working, praying, and playing - in the parish.



ZIGZAGGING

Aspiring to make space for interruptions to our schedules and our time by making ourselves available to relationships and friendships we have in the neighbourhood.



RECONCILING ENGAGEMENT

Aspiring to live as people of justice, mercy, and reconciliation through meaningful engagement in an association or community group in our parish.

OUR FOUNDATIONAL STORY

Our life together as followers of Jesus is marked by an ongoing maturing led by the Spirit. We purpose to have balanced lives that are being shaped by the foundational story of the Father, Son, and Spirit reconciling the world to God. This story shapes our everyday activities.

RELATIONAL BEINGS

God's intention for Creation is to enjoy the company of the Trinity, Father Son and Spirit united in perfect love. Living our days as companions with Him is the 'good life'. The Bible describes this relationship as 'walking with God', 'abiding', 'eternal life', 'friendship with God', and 'in Christ'. To enter into this relationship is to take up citizenship in the Kingdom of Heaven.

RESTORATION & RECONCILIATION

Humanity's pursuit of independence from God has resulted in humanly un-repairable tears in the relationships of humanity with God, society, creation and self. The consequences that derive from this pursuit are alienation, deprivation and oppression, of which the only hope is doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God (Micah 6:8).

The Good News is that God in Christ is on mission putting all things back the way they were meant to be (2 Cor. 5:17-20); whether between our self and God, whether personally, with others, and with creation, God is restoring and reconciling. This is the good news of peace. We announce that the Kingdom of God has come through word and action. Both proclaim that the reign of God is present among us. Both message and ministry are a sign, an instrument, and a foretaste that the Kingdom of God is present.

Good News – he has rescued us from ourselves and from the kingdom of darkness and has welcomed us as adopted children and fellow heirs with Jesus, in whom we have redemption and the forgiveness of sin. (Col. 1:13). God saves us from sin's captivity in order that we may be restored to fellowship with him and one another.

The Father's pursuit of us is fully realized in sending the Son as His perfect self disclosure. Meeting us on our turf, Jesus shows the way and paves the way for us to enjoy companionship with God.

Jesus is the Lord and Leader of God's Kingdom. It is continually advancing to restore what was lost, to renew what has died, to reconnect what was fragmented, so that all creation may fully enjoy His companionship.

We look for the Holy Spirit's activity ahead of us in our world. The Spirit also dwells within us and is the engine for our renovation and our mission.

MISSIONAL PARTICIPATION

God has called the Church to participate in fulfilling His mission of reconciling the world to Himself.

As a community we are an echo of the Trinitarian Community's delight, love and mission. Together we are a contrasting Kingdom, a model community in the middle of this world's kingdom.

As a community we are salt and light – participating in the redeeming activity of God, and directing the attention of the world towards God. (Zechariah 8:20-21)

We gather to encourage one another, celebrate the mission's movement forward and lament its delay. We're a model of the Trinity as a united, loving community. We are an instrument in His mission. We are a taste of the Kingdom to come.

SHALOM & PEACE

We wait for the fulfilment of the Kingdom come, when Jesus will reign. The new heaven and earth will be the harmony of culture and creation, God and humanity. (Rev. 21: 1-5).

We believe the Gospel is God's good news for the whole world, and we are determined by His grace to obey Christ's commission to proclaim it to all humanity and to make disciples of every nation. We also believe that God has called us to give special attention to proclaim and lovingly enact the good news in our downtown Windsor parish.

We aspire to live in such a way as to make our downtown Windsor parish a good place to grow up and a good place to grow old.

MY PERSONAL COVENANT:

We encourage you to make this covenant personal to you. How will this covenant shape the year ahead?

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Witness: _____

Date: _____