



Cultivating Vitality

Four Commitments For A Church
That Looks & Acts Like Jesus.



Four Commitments

for a church that looks & acts like Jesus

ECMN+
Episcopal Church in Minnesota

Discipleship: Transformative Encounters with Jesus

- We worship to encounter the living God and to continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship.
- We teach spiritual practices and invite all into creating and keeping an intentional Rule of Life.
- We preach to help people ground their own lives in God's story and live faithfully.
- We share the stories of our faith journeys, seeking courage to rely on God's promises.

Justice: Building Community with the Poor & Marginalized

- We serve Jesus in the form of our neighbors, especially our neighbors who are poor, suffering, or marginalized.
- We seek God's healing in relationships across difference—especially differences of race, class, and religion.
- We share what we have—money, space, skills, time—to serve the world and mend broken relationships with God, neighbor, and Creation.
- We strive, through our words and our actions, to be known as a force for love and justice in our community.

Innovation: A Culture of Experimentation

- We continually discern the unique identity and gifts of our congregation.
- We listen attentively to neighbors and news, trusting that the Holy Spirit is acting around us.
- We continually look for new opportunities and fresh ways to proclaim the Good News in our neighborhoods.
- We try new things and intentionally learn from success and failure, watching for God to make all things new.

Vitality: Sharing Life Together Deeply

- We gather in small groups to support each others' discipleship.
- Our relationships at church become some of the most important relationships in our lives.
- We ground our leadership and ministry gatherings in prayer and Scripture.
- We trust that times of conflict and change are an opportunity to hear the Holy Spirit's guidance in new ways.



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Pick one of the four areas—the one that calls to you, where you feel some energy and excitement.

Look at the four bullet points below it. For each one, ask yourself, how am I already doing this? Notice what you've done before that moves in this direction.

Imagine: What would it feel like if you could go deeper with this practice?

Now add some detail: What could you try, for a set period of time, to go deeper with this practice?

When could you do it?

Who could you invite to join you in this practice?

What in your normal routine could you set aside during this experiment to make room for it?

When it's over, what would tell you this is something you want to continue? What would tell you it's not?