

NEW COMMUNITY

TOGETHER - ENGAGE - BECOME

New Community is a simple dream - a place for all people to join with others in the pursuit of Jesus. Here in the heart of the city, we strive to be an urban-focused community of missionaries that wholeheartedly worship God, unconditionally love all people, and boldly live out the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, through Jesus Christ.

Like most dreams, trying to express what it means for us to be New Community in a few words on a page does not fully capture what it means to belong.

TOGETHER

New Community welcomes everyone to the banqueting table. Time and again, Jesus expresses radical hospitality by inviting both the stranger and the friend to join him in the breaking of bread. We are a place where everyone is welcomed to the table, as you are, no preconditions. Each of us is beloved by God, so who are we to withhold invitation? There will always be a place at the table for you to be together with us.

ENGAGE

The love we experience in fellowship with Jesus and others changes us. At New Community we engage with each other in small groups, on Sundays, at work and at play. Over coffee, over tears, sometimes, over a burrito. Some will call this discipleship, some mentorship, some friendship – whatever the term, we are learning to love and be loved. At New Community, love is the invitation to follow Jesus and have our hearts changed by his work in and through us.

BECOME

When we know we belong, we have the courage to fully participate in the life of the church. New Community is a place where the grace and peace that comes with knowing God is available to everyone.

Everyone.

Everyone.

Everyone.

New Community is a place where all are welcome.

All of us.

Whatever your age, race, culture, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, religious tradition, different abilities, you are welcome.

Whether you have money or not, whether you have a degree or not, whether you have a home or not, whether you have a strong faith or no faith, or perhaps a million questions about faith, you are welcome.

You are welcome here because you are a child of God, worthy of God's love and grace. Nothing you have done or left undone can change that.

New Community is committed to being a thoroughly loving community of faith, centered in the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We welcome all to full participation in the life of the church and encourage people of all backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives to join us as we seek Christ together.

New Community—Together, Engage, Become.

NEW COMMUNITY

TOGETHER - ENGAGE - BECOME

Our statement of welcome has always been a living document, shaped by our experiences as a community trying to live out God's Kingdom in Spokane. Since 2014, New Comm staff and elders have been in the process of thoughtfully discerning the place of our LGBTQ+ brother and sisters in the work and word of the church. We believe this discernment is necessary not just for those serving in church leadership, but in our view is a responsibility for all believers everywhere who take the Bible seriously and authoritatively. This responsibility requires us to grapple in each era with what it means to recognize our neighbor and to love them as we love ourselves. Such wrestling has led us to the following convictions:

- We affirm broad historical orthodoxy as outlined in the consensual creeds of Christianity, notably the centrality of the Word of God, the life and teachings of Jesus, freedom in Christ, and a conscious dependence on the Holy Spirit.
- We welcome a diversity of theological views and scriptural interpretations, value mystery over certainty, and practice deferring to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all areas of our lives.
- We believe that the beauty of the body of Christ comes from our shared faith in Christ, not from total agreement about every matter. We aspire to transcend polarization, and enter into what is made possible by God's Spirit: the rich benefits of a body of Christ, with many diverse members, committed to one another in love.
- We welcome and invite LGBTQ+ persons and families to full participation in all levels of community, partaking in sacraments, serving in ministry, joining in mission, and holding leadership roles as they are called.
- We affirm the church's historical position which upholds celibacy in singleness and faithfulness in monogamous covenantal marriage as the Christian standard. We believe that call extends to our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters in Jesus.
- We realize that not all who call New Comm home will arrive at the same conclusions about the Bible's teaching on same-sex relationships and gender identity and we celebrate New Comm's history of refusing to allow theological differences to divide a community.
- We encourage those in our community to practice empathy and a posture of humility when it comes to matters of diversity and refrain from trying to change anyone's mind on matters of discussion; rather, we practice listening, learning, and discerning God's spirit together. We believe that if we exhibit the radical love of Christ, our differences and diversity will enrich our life together, not divide us.

We are hopeful that in the days ahead we will continue to invite everyone to discipleship, faith, community, and fidelity in relationships. We want to encourage compassionate, respectful, and honest conversations that allows our community to become a beacon of hope for everyone.