



WHO WE ARE

The Ekklesia Project is a network of Christians from across the Christian tradition who rejoice in a peculiar kind of friendship rooted in our common love of God and the Church. We come together from Catholic parishes, Protestant congregations, communities in the Anabaptist tradition, house-churches and more as those who are convinced that to call ourselves *Christian* means that following Jesus Christ must shape all areas of life. Our shared friendship is one of God's good gifts. With deep gratitude for God's ongoing grace, we are unapologetically...

- **God-centered:** We seek to overcome the dominant culture's limited vision of faith as merely private or personal. We hope to bear witness in our lives and work to the triune God who moves the sun and the stars and is found in the life, cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Against the many idols that compete to determine our lives, we affirm that real power and effectiveness lie in God's hands; we live by trust and prayer.
- **Church-centered:** We share a common commitment to the Church as Christ's gathered Body, whose true heart is communal worship and whose true freedom is disciplined service. We share a common conviction that the Church is the material, living people of God that crosses all borders and human divisions. Our partnership in The Ekklesia Project deepens our commitments to our local congregations, broadens our care for the whole Church, and kindles in us the hope that the Holy Spirit is blowing fresh winds of unity.
- **Shalom-centered:** We are committed to the peace established in Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Embodying the crucified and risen Messiah, the Church must provide an alternative to the world's violence. We challenge Christians to rethink values and practices that presume a smooth fit between killing and discipleship and to reject troubling compromises with institutions, allegiances and assumptions that foster a "culture of death." By practicing the works of mercy and offering together our various gifts in support of God's reconciling work in the world, we continue to listen to and learn from each other on those matters we understand differently.
- **Political:** We believe that the Kingdom of God transcends national identities and must be the primary focus of our political loyalty. All other loyalties – familial, political or ideological – derive their meaning by participating in the Body of Christ and bearing witness to his Kingdom. We hope to challenge ourselves and the Church to resist accommodation to America and analogous temptations globally. We humbly seek to be used by God so that together, as the Body of Christ, we might become more of what God has called us to be.

Seeing Christ's Body as our "first family," The Ekklesia Project aims to put discipleship and the Church as an alternative community of practices, worship, and integration at the center of contemporary debates on Christianity and society. We work to assist the Church as it lives its true calling as the real-world community whose primary loyalty is to God's Kingdom that has broken into the world in Jesus' person, priorities and practices, and that continues to do so in and through the gathered Body of Christ.



Dear Friend,

Welcome to this year's Ekklesia Project summer gathering. We hope the conversations you have in these days will be a source of renewal and encouragement as we seek together to follow and serve the risen Lord.

In addition to the summer gathering, the Ekklesia Project funds several scholarships for attendees each year, supports congregations through the Congregational Formation Initiative, and provides resources for ministry through its website and other publishing projects.

This work is funded by donations from friends like you. We encourage you to consider contributing to this work today. You can do so at this Gathering using a donation portal at the booksellers' display. You can also donate online; it is easy and secure: <http://www.ekklesiaproject.org/ways-to-engage/donate/>

Thank you so much for partnering with us in this work!

On behalf of the entire Board of The Ekklesia Project,

Debra Dean Murphy, Chair of EP Board

Mary Bowling, Chair of Finance Committee