

REFLECTIONS ON: A VISION STATEMENT FOR ST. PHILIP ANGLICAN CHURCH

7. We aim to move toward this vision by sharing in vibrant worship and living lives of prayer. We will explore deeply the truth of the Gospel, honour the presence of God's Spirit in one another's lives, and welcome the gifts offered in ministry by all our members. Our life together will be shaped by our practice of the spiritual disciplines of the Christian faith and our deep commitment to the Christ to whom these practices enable us to open in full surrender.

A community in which all are welcomed and equally valued will not be a tidy community. When we welcome all gifts we may feel less than comfortable with the gift that is offered. The quality of the gift is not the point. The point is the spirit in which the gift is offered and the spirit in which the gift is received.

We commit ourselves to being a community in which all people are supported in exploring their gifts and discovering their sense of call to follow God. As we practice the spiritual disciplines of the Christian faith, we will grow in our ability to follow where God is leading.

There are a variety of spiritual disciplines through which we can open more deeply to an awareness of God: worship, personal and group Bible study, intentional small group community through home groups or other small ministry focused groups, silent meditative prayer, personal spiritual direction, retreat, courses to deepen our understanding of the Christian faith, reading edifying spiritual books, active ministry in service to God through the world. It is not most important what our spiritual practice might be. It is most important that we have an intentional and purposeful spiritual practice.

How am I growing in my ability to follow God?

What spiritual practice might help me open more deeply to God?