

Recommitment 2002

Responding Joyfully With Our Lives

SEEKERS CHURCH

A Christian Community

In the Tradition of the Church of the Saviour

Recommitment 2002

Responding Joyfully With Our Lives

REFLECTION

A mouse and a frog meet every morning on the riverbank.

They sit on the ground and talk.

Each morning, the second they see each other,
they open easily, telling stories and dreams and secrets,
empty of any fear or suspicious holding back.

To watch and listen to those two
is to understand how, as it's written,
sometimes when two beings come together,
Christ becomes visible.

Rumi, from "The Essential Rumi,
(translated by Coleman Barks), pg. 79.

SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When we are in the wilderness,
God walks with us.

Voice 1: When we are burdened
by the groaning cares of Creation,
the Risen Christ shares the heavy load.

Voice 2: When we reach deep enough,
God's Holy Spirit bubbles up
as unexpected joy.

All: We claim the promise of God's joyful presence

in this time of recommitment to the Risen Christ,
this place of new beginnings.

INVOCATION

HYMN

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

SILENCE

PRAYERS

CONFESSION

Leader: You call us, Compassionate One,
to lives of joyful participation,
to openness to the world,
to an ever-deepening commitment
as members of the Body of Christ.

People: We look through tear-filled eyes,
afraid of an unknown future,
afraid of not living up to your expectations,

or our own,
afraid of the responsibility
of living as your people.

Leader: You call us, Merciful One,
to lives of justice and kindness,
to working to end all war,
to being your hands and feet and body
working in the world.

All: We look through tear-filled eyes,
knowing our weakness,
knowing our failures,
knowing our yearning to live in joy.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE

Leader: The good news is this:

In forgiving we are forgiven,
in loving we are loved.

The Compassionate One looks
through tear-filled eyes,
holding us in joy.

All: Amen

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

HYMN

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

SERMON

SILENT REFLECTION

OFFERING

SHARED REFLECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

BENEDICTION

Leader: As we leave the safety of this sanctuary

See Christ in your own reflection

and in the faces of everyone you meet.

Share joy in the simple pleasures,

in the challenges of the daily,

in the hardships of the world.

The seeds of hope are all around you.

All: Amen.

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Preparation for Recommitment 2002

As Seekers Church prepares for its annual celebration of recommitment to being part of the Body of Christ, we invite you to see this coming year of change and challenge as a special opportunity to think and pray about how you are called

to contribute to this community in terms of time, energy and money.

In the coming year we will be opening a headquarters for Seekers Church in our own location. We can look forward to a year of promise, challenge and mystery. As you reflect on your life as part of this community of faith, we invite you to look both at what Seekers Church has been for you in the past and what you would like to see us become. We encourage you to reflect not only on what Seekers Church means to you but also on what you mean to the community. Every choice you make, every call you answer changes all of us, and the change doesn't stop with Seekers!

We pray that each of us will use this recommitment season to envision the future for Seekers Church and the part we are called to play in this new chapter of our life together. Here are some general questions about commitment to help guide your reflection.

As part of the Seekers' celebration of recommitment on October 20th, each of us will be invited to sign the Seekers membership log and make a personal statement of commitment to the community using the appropriate statement on the next page. All those who attend regularly and who identify themselves as Seekers will use the Seekers' statement. The Stewards will use the longer statement. If you are not now a Steward but feel called to that deeper level of support for the Seekers Church, please let us know. Stewardship is open to all who are called and who have completed the preparation.

Seekers' Servant Leadership Team

Peter Bankson

Kate Cudlipp

Jeanne Marcus

Reflection

Call. In Seekers, we believe that God calls each person and the community as a body, to a life of meaning and purpose. The call of Seekers Church, which has guided us for the past 25 years, is included on the last page of this paper.

- Do you view yourself as living out a call from God?
- What is that call, and how are you living it out?

Participation in Common Worship. The life of Seekers is centered in corporate worship.

- Is Sunday worship with Seekers a priority for you?
- Are you fed by this experience? How?

Community Life. Seekers Church offers each of us different opportunities to participate in the life of the community. We count on the leading of the Holy Spirit in each other to bring forth our gifts and make Seekers what it is now and what it will become in the future.

- Where do you offer yourself into the life of Seekers Church, and how are you received there?
- How do you hope your presence will make a difference in the coming year – to you, within Seekers and in the wider circle of God's Creation?

Personal Spiritual Growth. Seekers Church is committed to spiritual growth for everyone in the community.

- Do you take your spiritual life seriously?
- Are the practices of daily quiet time and other spiritual disciplines a priority for you to nurture your inner life?

Commitment to the Future. This is a time of great uncertainty in the life of the nation and the church. Seekers Church is on a faith journey with new opportunities for richer life as a part of the Body of Christ.

- How are you being called to be part of these new opportunities?
- What do you need from Seekers during these uncertain times?

Seekers' Commitment Statement

I am a Seeker. I come today to affirm my relationship with this Christian community in the tradition of the Church of the Saviour, linked with the people of God through the ages.

As a member of this church, I will deepen my relationships in this local expression of the Body of Christ, sharing my gifts from God with others who worship with Seekers Church, and in the wider world. I will:

- *Nurture my relationship with God and Seekers Church through spiritual disciplines;*
- *Care for the whole of creation, including the natural environment;*
- *Foster justice and be in solidarity with the poor;*
- *Work for the end of all war, both public and private; and*
- *Respond joyfully with my life, as the grace of God gives me freedom.*

Stewards' Commitment Statement

I come today to make my commitment as a Steward of Seekers Church, a Christian community in the tradition of the Church of the Saviour, linked with the people of God throughout the ages. We worship God as triune being. Along with the Disciples, we believe:

That the Creator – father and mother to us all, ground of our being – loves, sustains and calls us;
That Jesus is the Christ, who calls us to a ministry of love and justice;

That the Holy Spirit, as the empowering presence and breath of God, confronts and inspires us to do God's work in the world.

We believe that we are all ministers of the Church, which is both universal, grace-filled body of Christ and fragile earthen vessel.

I commit to:

- *Be a faithful witness to God's presence among us;*
- *Nurture my relationship with God and Seekers Church through specific spiritual practices or disciplines;*
- *Care for the whole of creation, including the natural environment;*
- *Foster justice and be in solidarity with the poor;*
- *Work for the ending of all war, public and private;*
- *Share responsibility for the spiritual growth of persons of all ages in the Seekers Church community;*
- *Take responsibility for the organizational health of Seekers Church;*
- *Respond joyfully with my life, as the grace of God gives me freedom.*

If I move from this place, I will join another expression of Christ's church.

The Call of Seekers Church

Our call is to be a "Seekers community" which comes together in weekly worship rooted in the Biblical faith, with shared leadership; and disperses with a common commitment to understand and implement Christian servanthood in the structures in which we live our lives.

By "Seekers community" we mean an intentional body which sees Christ as our true life source. Koinonia with one another and genuine self-giving to the world are the ways we can be in Christ today. Seekers are not persons who have arrived, but persons who are intentionally on the way.

By shared leadership we mean empowering the gifts of women and men to help our worship flow out of and feed into the life of the community. We are committed to evoking and giving space to new gifts of preaching, liturgical leadership, creative worship forms, giving, mission and other acts of faith.

For us, Christian servanthood is based on empowering others within the normal structures of our daily lives (work; family and primary relationships; and citizenship) as well as through special structures for service and witness. We desire and welcome participation in Seekers of women and men of every race and sexual orientation. In Seekers Church we will equip and support each other in all of these areas and seek a balance among them.

The Seekers community sees itself called into Christ's ministry of deliverance from bondage to freedom in every personal and corporate expression. We recognize the value of each individual and seek to heal any wounds of discrimination inflicted by our society and church.

Seekers is committed to participation by persons of all ages. We see children, youth and adults of all ages as valuable and valued parts of our community, and desire their inclusion in our care, our ministry, and our life together.

- *Issued by Seekers Founding Members in July 1976*
- Revised by Seekers Core Members in November 1989
- *Revised by Seekers Core Members in May 1991*

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Additional Prayers during Pentecost (Recommitment)

September 8, 2002

Prayers by: Peter Bankson, Liturgist