

A Practice of Hospitality: Openness to All

Being the Living Christ: transformed disciples

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A Few Roles of Hospitality (there are many)

Ushers

Initial greeters, help orient to the space, offer bulletin or QR code, monitor people and space, answer questions, build/initiate relationship

Greeters

Initial welcome, answer questions, offer directions, community information, build/initiate relationship

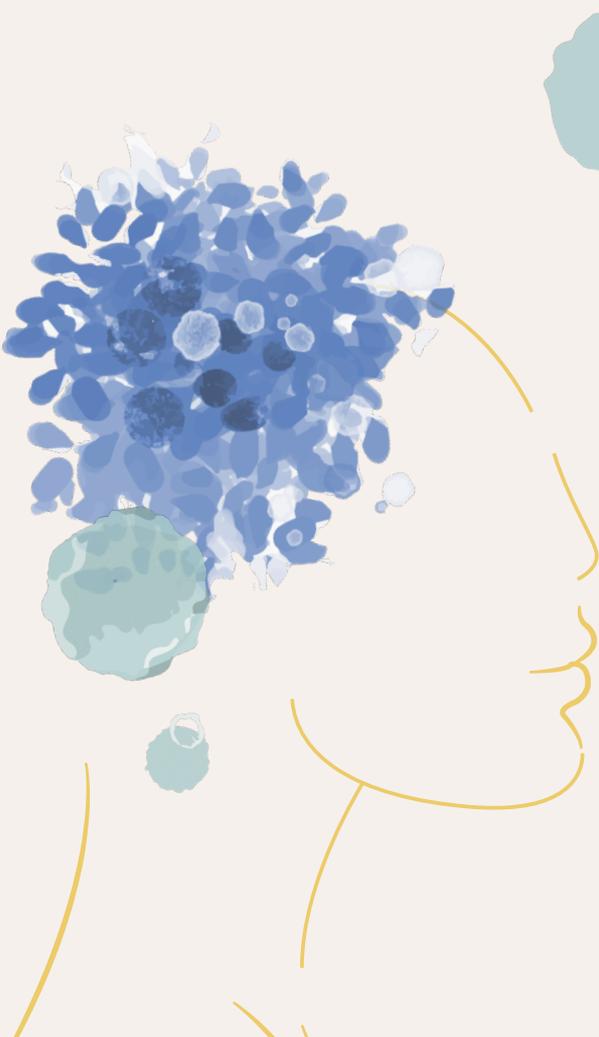
Ministry

Volunteers

Public facing, limited movement, answer questions, assist with service movement, worship relationship

Clergy & Staff

Very public facing, often engaged in conversation, limited movement, answers questions, relationship building

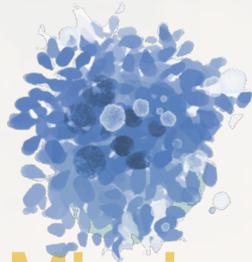


What do we mean by hospitality?

- Hospitality is a strong buzz word often used alongside “welcome” to describe a way of being open to outsiders.
- It may be weaponized to mean passive acceptance even in the face of danger.
- It may be touted as overly joyful, always happy.
- It may be used to describe logistics and supplies of welcome work.

Jesus’ hospitality is transformative, deep, uncomfortable, vulnerable, mutual.

Mission and Vision Of Hospitality



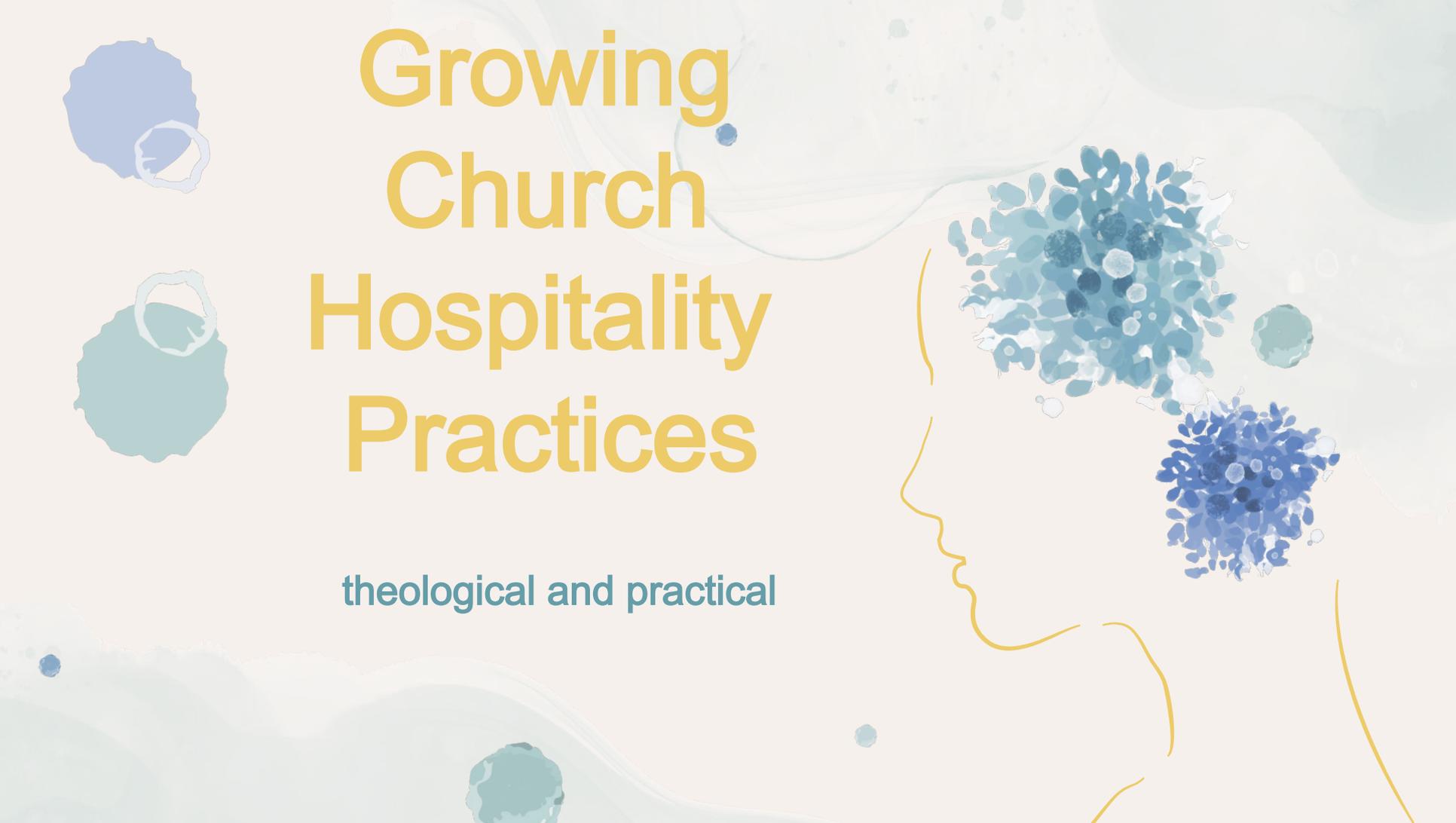
Mission

To be open to oneself and all who walk the disciples' journey, aiming to be curious and willing to be transformed, building together peace, worship, and fellowship.



Vision

To grow in Jesus' ministry, building a world transformed by seeing Christ in all and loving as he loved.



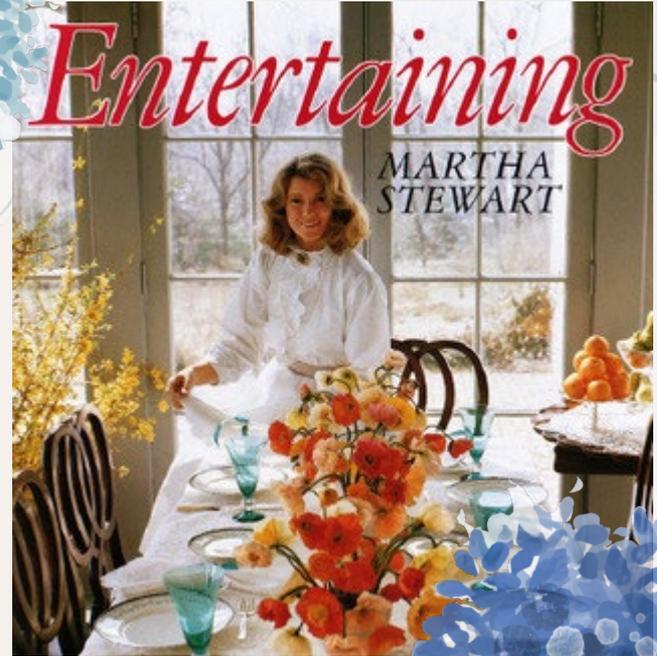
Growing Church Hospitality Practices

theological and practical

From Entertaining...

- Showing people a good time.
- It's always joyful and happy.
- Pressure to be the most enjoyable event. Perfect.

The focus is towards the guest, their experience and them as the “other” being pleased with you, the “host.”



to welcome...

who is a stranger?

Seeking belonging,
low-risk guest.

community

Beginning belonging

joining *us*

Still a sense of
directionality: they come to
us.

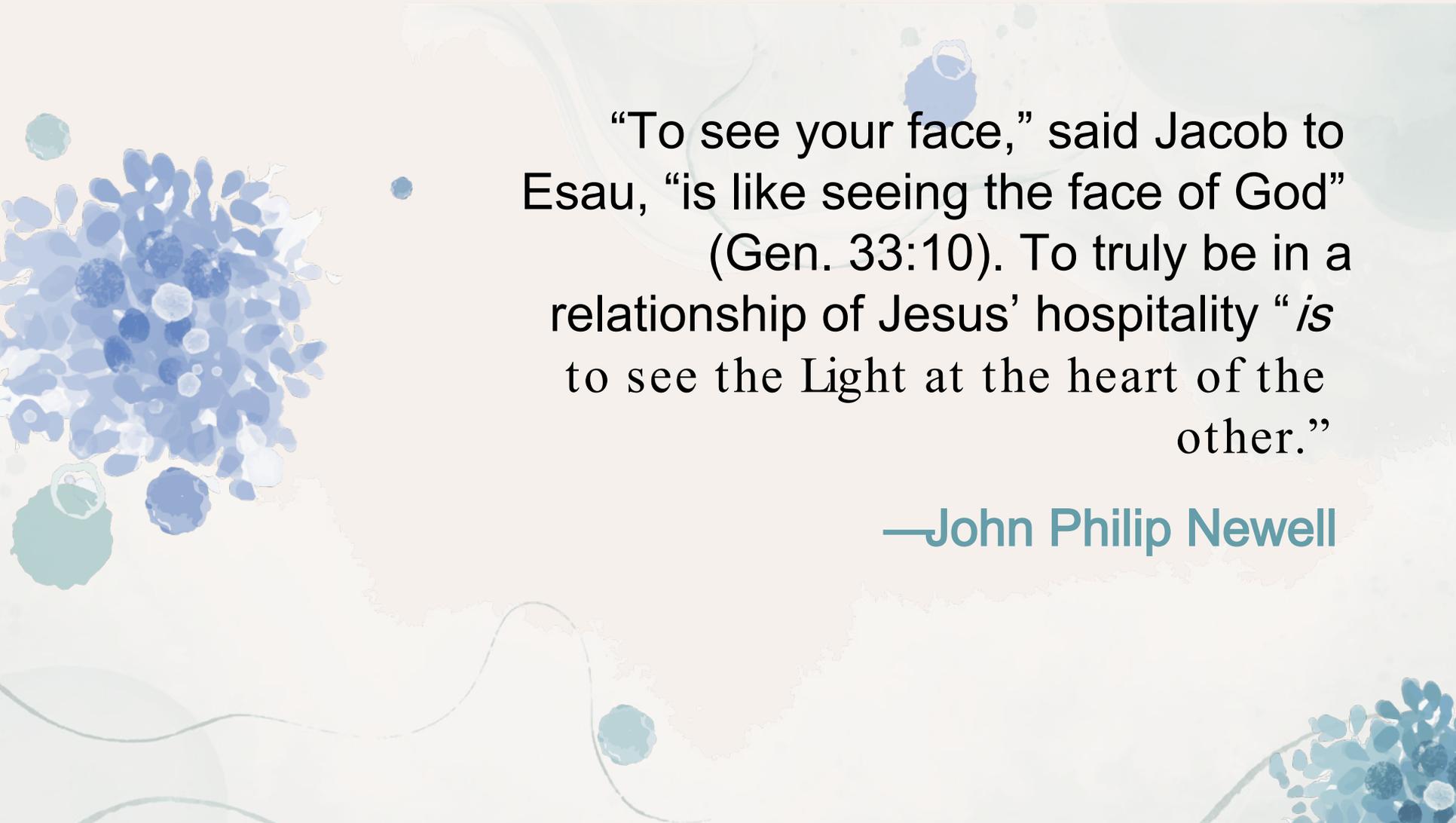
sharing
with *us*

Their gifts make *us*
richer.



Jesus' hospitalitystory

Hospitality of transformation and mutuality

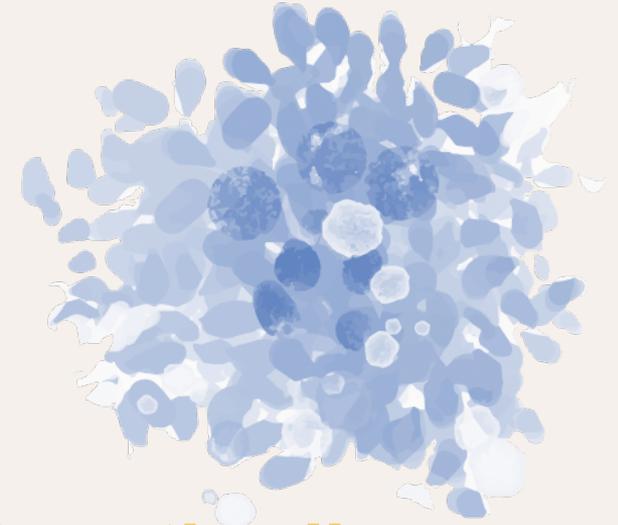


“To see your face,” said Jacob to Esau, “is like seeing the face of God” (Gen. 33:10). To truly be in a relationship of Jesus’ hospitality “*is* to see the Light at the heart of the other.”

—John Philip Newell



Practices of growing hospitality



Practically speaking



Be an Agent Not a Gatekeeper

Notice body language and step in to help!

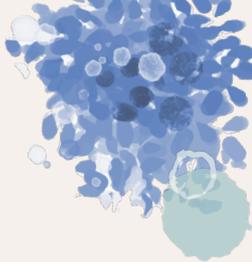
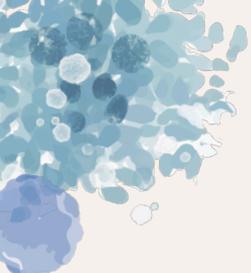
- Periscoping
- Slow walks
- Linger
- Sitting or standing alone
- Appearing overly interested in something.



Guarding or limiting someone's experience, for example: blocking a full row by sitting on the end, not inviting someone to participate.



Gatekeeping may come from discomfort with the unfamiliar, it can signal important safety concerns; but must be met with reflection, curiosity, compassion.



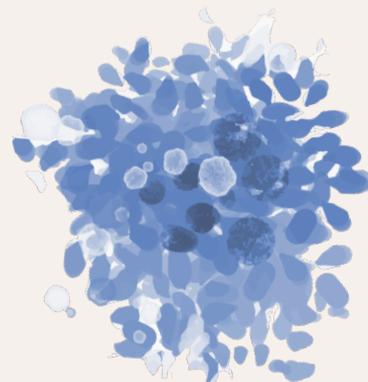
Turn Over Rocks

Learn their story, what brought them, what do they need?

Be willing to share some of your own bait: what brought you here, how does the community and worship feed you?

Give a little more yourself- being open invites openness.

Deep listening- with awareness and compassion



Connect the Dots



People need help making meaning and connection. Why should they be here?

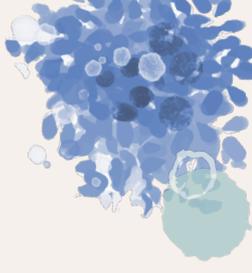
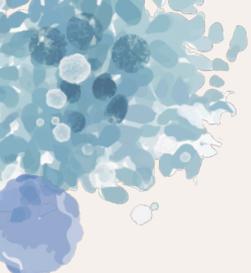
Connections enhance a sense of belonging.



Tap into your knowledge of people, place, events.

They are a piece of this puzzle (ever being built).

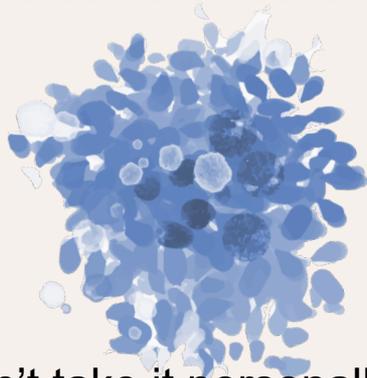




Think Long Term

It takes people a while, strive
for today's experience and
also next weeks.

Connecting the dots will help
think long term.



Share how the community
adapts, changes with seasons

Don't take it personally if
today isn't great, or they
don't come back next week.
Maybe they'll be back in a
month!





Embrace the Chaos

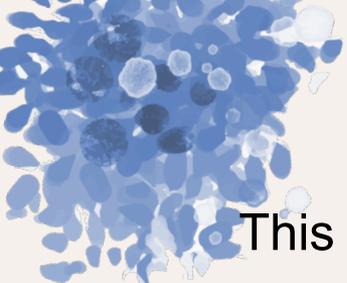
You will never be able to make a day go as smoothly as you expect.

Life's waves will always be rolling in, so how's your surfing game?

Are you waiting for the perfect person to welcome, or the perfect time to say hello, or can you work with where you are now and who is with you?



Hello, I'm Dolyn,
a unique
manifestation of
the Divine.



Growing Edges: constant and unavoidable

This is uncomfortable.



Notice when, where in your body, how it feels.

Be present to your discomfort.

Don't let it stop you.



Hospitality is uncomfortable.
That is part of what makes it
transformative.

Limiting ourselves because
of our ideas of how this
community, worship
experience, coffee hour
“should” be only limits our
growth with God.



Blessing & Prayer



Bless

Bless me Lord,
that I may be a
blessing.



Open

Open my heart
Lord, may I see
Christ in
everyone I meet.



Praise

Lord, I grow in
your love through
loving others, you
are the source of
our being.

Curiosity, Prayer, Action, Growth, Curiosity...

Openness to
God



Curious

When do “I” or
“us” get in the
way?

Blessing
and
prayer



What is
needed?

For me, for the
community, for
them?

Growing together

This moment can
only happen
because of who
is here now.

Transformed

Newness of
community,
changed with
new belonging.



Ongoing reflection

Who is the new
“us”, and when
does it get in the
way?

Living Christ

The background is a soft, abstract composition. It features a light cream or pale yellow base. On the right side, there is a thin, golden-yellow line drawing of a human profile, facing left. The background is decorated with various blue and teal floral and organic shapes, including clusters of small leaves and larger, more complex floral motifs. There are also some small, solid-colored circles scattered throughout. The overall aesthetic is clean, modern, and spiritual.

Testimonials



Waiting

“We waited 12 minutes for someone to say ‘hi’ to us at coffee hour.”



Wanting

“It was hard to join anything.”



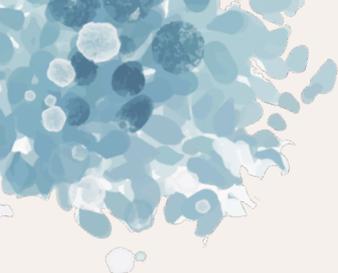
Joyful

“One of the things I enjoyed the most was the abundance of laughter.”



Getting in there

“I hope it’s ok we just sort of jumped right in here!”



Hospitality is a commitment and a practice

Not a “got it” kind of thing: “ *Now*
we’re hospitable!”

Commitment to openness, growth.

Trust one another to be supportive
and work together.

To be together when it’s
uncomfortable and difficult- that is
the place transformation occurs!

Looking Forward

Assess hospitality in your context

Hospitality helps us
logistically meet the needs of
being church and affirms our
dedication to inclusion,
diversity, and transformation!

**How does hospitality
reflect your faith?**

**What are roles of
hospitality?**

**How is hospitality
talked about?**



Thank You!

Questions?

Thank You!



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