New Worshiping Community Definition

A New Worshiping Community is…

Brief Definition

- **New**
  - Seeking to make and form new disciples of Jesus Christ
  - Taking on varied forms of church for our changing culture
- **Worshiping**
  - Gathered by the Spirit to meet Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament
  - Sent by the Spirit to join God's mission for the transformation of the world
- **Community**
  - Practicing mutual care and accountability
  - Developing sustainability in leadership and finances

Long Definition

- **New**
  - **Seeking to make and form new disciples of Jesus Christ**

    NWCs witness in word and deed (1 John 3:18), continuing Jesus' own mission of discipling, feeding, teaching, healing, welcoming, crossing boundaries, and proclaiming God's coming realm. Those with new and renewed faith join the Spirit's transforming work in the world.

  - **Taking on varied forms of church for our changing culture**

    Living out the Gospel demands ministry which engages today's cultures (John 1:14). New ways of joining Christians together for contextual ministry will use current and historic ways of "being church" as springboards for creative innovation (Matt 9:17).

- **Worshiping**
  - **Gathered by the Spirit to meet Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament**

    We seek to hear, come to believe, and are equipped to live the promises of God revealed in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. NWCs welcome new members of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27) through Baptism and are nourished by Christ's spiritual presence in the Lord's Supper.

  - **Sent by the Spirit to join God's mission for the transformation of the world**

    The Spirit impels us outward, so that worshipers participate in the redemption of the world in Christ (Col 1:20). Therefore, the primary beneficiaries of the NWC are not its own members, but rather its community and world.

- **Community**
  - **Practicing mutual care and accountability**

    We commit ourselves to love one another (John 13:34) in relationships of mutual care and accountability, as faithful disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. Entrusting ourselves and the church to the Holy Spirit, we seek to grow to maturity in faith and life.

  - **Developing sustainability in leadership and finances**

    As distinct yet connected expressions of the body of Christ, NWCs have local leadership arising from their own community of faith (Exodus 18:21). Pastoral leadership, facilities, and programs are all appropriately structured in order to demonstrate good and faithful stewardship.

Responding to Christ's gift and call, we do all these things only by God's grace, seeking—above all else—to glorify God through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.