

Quest Christian Community began with a dream - actually with several dreams. As those dreams were nurtured and eventually intersected they became a unified dream for a different expression of Christian community in St. Catharines. Clear in our DNA from the beginning has been a desire to experiment and explore new ways of being the church and in doing so becoming a place of welcome and belonging for those who struggle to be at home in traditional or contemporary church models. From the time 3 years ago that we began as two couples to today when we are a gathering of about 30 plus children, building a place of belonging has remained central. What that has looked like has changed regularly as we continually search for meaningful ways to be a community of Christ followers. When people find us or visit for the first time and respond by saying 'It feels like home', 'I can be myself here', 'It feels like a safe place to ask questions', we get pretty excited.

I think that one of the ways that Quest is participating a larger movement of God is by taking time to create a place for safe dialogue. We have felt a hunger for honest conversation that doesn't steer away from hard questions and for a non-judgmental approach to the differences of opinions that are expected in any community. We strive to accept each other for who we are, but also expect each other to grow.

Quest is also a part of the larger movement of God because we are connected intrinsically to this denomination and to local churches. It has been vital to us that we are not doing this in isolation or in opposition. The blessing and generosity of the local MCEC congregations and the conference itself have meant that we could actually pursue a new expression of Christian community and thereby be a missional extension of you.

If you were to visit us on a Sunday evening, you would enter our building 145 and discover a small art gallery featuring local artists. As you pass through the gallery, you would find us sharing a light meal together, sitting around small tables and enjoying conversation. As we move into a time of intergenerational worship you would experience a mix of new and old liturgy, skillfully played music that may not be in any hymn book or on a worship CD and visuals that invite you to settle into God's presence. This prepares you for the teaching and discussion time which focuses on a topic that builds over several weeks, meanwhile the children are experiencing a teaching time of their own. Our evenings end with continued conversation and cooperation in cleaning up.

As we follow the call that we have heard to participate in God's mission in this way we will continually ask questions about what we are doing and reassess why. We are grateful for the grace to make mistakes and to be enlightened and inspired along the way.