

# VISION ESPRESSO



CONDENSED CONVERSATIONS WITH LEADERS WE LIKE

**Bruxy & Tim**  
The Meeting House

## Introduction – Is It Time For A Change?

*The goal of spiritual growth...*

**Ephesians 2:10**

Now, with God's help, I shall become myself.  
~ Soren Kierkegaard

## What Is A Church?

Meaning...

- How we often use the word...
- What it really means...

**Acts 19:32, 39, 41**  
**1 Timothy 3:15**

We \_\_\_\_\_ the Body of Christ, the Temple of the Spirit.  
We \_\_\_\_\_ a church as we gather together for a purpose.

CHURCH: a people-in-relationship; the purposeful gathering of the new community of Christ.

**1 Peter 2:4-10**

**Revelation 5:9**

Membership...

**Acts 2:47; 1 Corinthians 12;**  
**Acts 18:27; 1 Corinthians 16:3; 2 Corinthians 3:1; 3 John 5-9**

Lines of Connection...

- **Geographical** lines of connection... e.g., ministerials, local church-partnering events
- **Thematic** lines of connection... e.g., loose associations/fellowships
- **Accountable/Supportive/Historical** lines of connection... e.g., denominations
- **Ministry** lines of connection... e.g., Mennonite Central Community – [www.mcc.org](http://www.mcc.org)

Mission...

**Philippians 3:13-14**

## What To Look Out For At TMH in 2005

1. A New Facility & A New Site
2. Benevolence Beyond Tokenism
3. Increased Bible Appreciation

## Conclusion – Cultivating A Leadership Culture

*My Next Step Will Be...*

- a. Finding a different church where I can commit.
- b. Contacting church leadership with my spiritual questions.
- c. Get and begin reading a Bible (try starting with the Gospel of Matthew or John).
- d. Getting involved in a Home Church today.
- e. Reading *THE MEETING HOUSE MANIFESTO*.
- f. Contacting church leadership to find out more about serving.
- g. Contacting church leadership about being baptized.
- h. Attending the next *DISCOVERY CLASS*.
- i. Attending the next *T.E.A.M.* meeting.
- j. Becoming intentional about giving financially.
- k. Increasing my level of regular giving.
- l. Pledging/Giving extra toward our Growth Fund.
- m. Taking the initiative to talk about my faith with \_\_\_\_\_.

Church Phone: 905-827-3266

More Info: [www.themeetinghouse.ca](http://www.themeetinghouse.ca)

## HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

WARMING UP...

1. Glenn Marshall writes, "People should be able to look at the church and see what it's like to live under the reign of God." What are your thoughts about this?
2. After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one new thing you learned or one thing that most challenged, convicted, or encouraged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Look at Jesus' words in **Matthew 18:20**. a) What are the implications of the principle of this verse? b) In light of what the New Testament says about being God's people-in-relationship, what would you say to someone who claimed that they didn't need church because they can better worship God by themselves at home or walking in the woods? Incorporate Scripture into your answer as much as you're able.
4. The New Testament uses a variety of metaphors to describe the spiritual reality and mission of the church. After reading the verses listed, discuss what the different implications are for how we live in relationship with each other and the world: a) a Nation/Kingdom – **1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:6;** b) A priesthood – **1 Peter 2:5, 9; Revelation 1:6;** c) Christ's Body – **1 Corinthians 12:1-31; Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18;** d) The Spirit's Temple – **1 Corinthians 6:1-2; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:5.**

SO WHAT?...

5. Take a few moments (3-4 minutes) to meditate on **Matthew 18:20** and its implications for your own life. Focus on how your life might change if you lived out the principle behind this reality with complete passion. If you want, talk about any new insights you gain through this exercise. (Take time this week, daily if possible, to return to this passage for longer meditation.)

**Bruxy & Tim @ The Meeting House – Sunday, January 2 / 9, 2005**

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