

Bearing Faithful Witness - Resources

Exploring what it means to become a community that responds to "our people" by living and communicating a good news story.

RESOURCE #2

Rhythms and Practices at the Heart of Christian Community

These practices constitute the way of life (rhythms) that we are inviting people to enter into; they shape what we mean by the practical implications of the "good news" to be found in Jesus and God's reign of shalom; these practices are evangelism – they proclaim the good news story.

- **Worship/Leitourgia**; the public, welcoming, assembly of Christians where the Biblical Narrative is spoken, listened to, and discussed, where songs of adoration, celebration, and response are sung, where prayers are raised, and the Lord's Supper is entered into.
- **Community/Koinonia**; where love, dialogue, mutual care, prayer, shared life, forgiveness, and reconciliation, allow all participants to freely exercise their God-given, Spirit-empowered gifts, contributing to the life of the community for the common good
- **Disciple-making/Manthano**; incorporation through baptism and intentional formation of all who desire to enter into relationship with Jesus Christ the Master; a new people is formed, adhering to a new story shaped by Christian Scriptures; with new life, kingdom priorities, new disciplines and habits
- **Service/Diakonia**; the generous, outward, hospitable, ministering, interceding, healing orientation of Christian community -- offering sacrificial loving care wherever it is required

Bearing faithful witness (*euaggelion*); the summative testimony of the embodying and proclaiming rhythms of Christian community; to the degree that these rhythms have a robust life in our faith communities, we are automatically bearing faithful witness.

What tasks help us do that?

