



### Dwelling in the Word

Prayerfully read 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13; 4:1, 9-10 and ask:

1. What words, phrases, or images stood out to you?
2. What does this say about what God desires to accomplish in you?
3. How could you respond to what God says in this passage?

### Beginning the Conversation

1. What is a way that you have experienced love from others while being part of a church community?
2. If you have previously done a spiritual gifts test, what were your spiritual gifts? How do you enjoy using them?

### Digging Deeper *(pick some of the following questions to discuss as a group)*

1. A consistent theme in the start of Paul's letters in the New Testament is to start off with a word of thankfulness (1 Corinthians 1:4-8, Philippians 1:3-11, Colossians 1:3-13, 1 Thessalonians 2-10, 2 Thessalonians 3-12, Philemon 4:1-6). Look through a couple of these passages and notice any similarities or differences. Why do you think Paul started off these letters with these words of encouragement? What role would that play in building strong communities?
2. The idea of spiritual gifts is referenced in the New Testament in Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:8-10; 28-30, and Ephesians 4:11.
  - a. Take a look at the different passages. Describe how you think these gifts work together to empower and equip both the local and global church.
  - b. Are there any gifts mentioned in the passages that you would like to understand better?
3. "Paul's emphasis on mutual love for fellow Christians was intended to create a new sense of identity and commitment among people who had no basis for a mutual relation prior to their conversion to Christ." (Wanamaker, p.160)
  - a. As you think about our church community, or others you have been part of, what are the gifts that we get when we are part of a diverse community of believers? What can some of the challenges be?
  - b. How do you think the metaphor of being spiritual family helps us navigate our diversity?

### Living it Out

1. The Greenfield Church Covenant notes four general ways a follower of Christ can express their love and affection for one another: committing to live life together while embracing our unity and diversity in Christ; using our spiritual gifts to build up this body of believers; serving and caring for one another with hospitality and meeting practical needs; maintaining grace-filled, healthy relationships with mutual accountability and a commitment to reconciliation. Is there something connected with one of these areas you could engage in this week that would help you continue growing in your affection for one another?

## Greenfield Community Church — Who We Are



### **Mission Statement** (Approved by membership June 3, 2018)

Christ followers on mission with God and growing in our love for God, one another, and neighbours.

### **Values Statement** (Approved by membership February 4, 2024)

We strive to be a church that:

- Follows Jesus, submitting to the Spirit and growing in relationship with the Father through acts of worship and service.
- Embraces Scripture as our foundation for theological reflection with grace and humility; discerning the essentials for faith and life.
- Lives life together guided by love for one another, joyfully practicing generous hospitality, and pursuing reconciliation with God and one another in a diverse and egalitarian community.
- Shares Christ's love with our neighbours and engages in local and global partnerships, characterized by mercy and justice.

### **Membership Covenant** (Approved by membership 26 May 2019)

We have been led by the Spirit of God to confess Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour. We believe in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as the one-and-only true God, who has called us into relationship with himself through Jesus and into relationship with one another as Greenfield Community Church.

Now, before God, we freely covenant together to join God on mission, following Jesus in a life of discipleship as we put our hope in the Spirit's transforming work in us and in our neighbourhoods.

I will strive to:

Grow in my love for God by

- seeking God's kingdom above all else and living all of my life humbly as an act of worship
- engaging regularly in prayer and other spiritual practices
- knowing my place in God's Story as rooted in the reading and study of Scripture
- practicing responsible stewardship of the time, talent, and treasure God has entrusted to me

Grow in my love for one another by

- committing to live life together while embracing our unity and diversity in Christ
- using my spiritual gifts to build up this body of believers
- serving and caring for one another with hospitality and meeting practical needs
- maintaining grace-filled, healthy relationships with mutual accountability and a commitment to reconciliation

Grow in my love for my neighbours by

- living out the gospel of the kingdom of God in deed and word
- engaging with those in my neighbourhood and my networks
- acting with integrity, respect, hospitality, and compassion in all my relationships
- seeking justice, peace and well-being for all, especially the poor and marginalized, both locally and globally

And we promise this all for the glory of God and for the sake of his kingdom in our neighbourhoods, city, nation, and world.

We commit to reviewing and renewing this Covenant as a congregation annually.



## The Affections of Greenfield

A Sermon Series on our 3 Loves



## Growing in Our Affection for One Another

January 18, 2026  
Pastor Sara-May



## Our Church Covenant



I will strive to... Grow in my love for one another by

- committing to live life together while embracing our unity and diversity in Christ
- using my spiritual gifts to build up this body of believers
- serving and caring for one another with hospitality and meeting practical needs
- maintaining grace-filled, healthy relationships with mutual accountability and a commitment to reconciliation



**“if we want to love well, we need to be inspired, empowered and transformed by the love of God.”**



### **1 Thess 3:12-13**

And may the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow and overflow, just as our love for you overflows. May he, as a result, make your hearts strong, blameless, and holy as you stand before God our Father when our Lord Jesus comes again with all his holy people.



### **1 Thess 4:1, 9-10**

Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you in the name of the Lord Jesus to live in a way that pleases God, as we have taught you. You live this way already, and we encourage you to do so even more.....



### **1 Thess 4:1, 9-10**

But we don't need to write to you about the importance of loving each other, for God himself has taught you to love one another. Indeed, you already show your love for all the believers throughout Macedonia. Even so, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you to love them even more.



Committing to live life together  
while embracing our unity and  
diversity in Christ



Serving and caring for one another with  
hospitality and meeting practical needs



Using my spiritual gifts to build up  
this body of believers



There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing.



He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

**1 Corinthians 12:4-10**



**Maintaining grace-filled, healthy relationships with mutual accountability and a commitment to reconciliation**



## **Our Church Covenant**

We will strive to... Grow in our love for one another by

- committing to live life together while embracing our unity and diversity in Christ
- using our spiritual gifts to build up this body of believers
- serving and caring for one another with hospitality and meeting practical needs
- maintaining grace-filled, healthy relationships with mutual accountability and a commitment to reconciliation

## **Conclusion**

- 1** Be Present with one another.
- 2** Reflect on your current capacity to love.
- 3** Know your Spiritual Gifts.
- 4** Care for one another.
- 5** Join a group.

