



# METANOIA

## Church Planting Vision Summary

For Professor Bowen  
Church Planting  
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## ***METANOIA* – VISION SUMMARY**

### **Mission**

*METANOIA's* mission is to build relationships - with God, and with each other - to provide rootedness and meaning; respite from the frenetic pace and pressure of urban life; and spaces of calm, quiet and stillness to recollect and re-center. Our goal is to realize and incarnate the Kingdom of God in daily life.

### **Vision**

*METANOIA* is not a church in the traditional sense. We do not seek to own property or erect buildings. Rather, we seek to build Christian community among residents of the Toronto Waterfront. In particular, our intent is to create a *Spa of Living Water* to meet the spiritual, fellowship and social needs of urban singles and childless couples, the two predominant groups in the Harbourfront area.

Many of us have come to the City from somewhere else, leaving our friends and family behind to make a new life and seek new opportunities. While life in the city is exhilarating and fast-paced, at times it can feel anonymous, transient, superficial and frenzied. It is also too big to do alone. Through community *METANOIA* seeks to provide perspective, balance, and support to fully engage the world.

Through contemplative spirituality and worship *METANOIA* seeks to practice the presence of God.

By discussion, investigation and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, *METANOIA* seeks to enable discipleship, the continuation of Christ's mission in the world.

A variety of programme offerings is designed to provide choice and multiple opportunities to entry.

In the beginning *METANOIA* will offer two Sunday services:

- ⊕ *Wine Before Breakfast*, a sharing of Holy Communion based on the experiences and music of Taizé, to nourish the members of the community, and others who have been baptized into the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Breakfast and discussion groups will follow.
- ⊕ *Taizé at Twilight*, contemplative evening prayer and meditation, followed by hospitality and fellowship.

When the community has been established *METANOIA* intends to launch:

- ⊕ *Church on the Boat*, a Saturday mid-morning service of praise and worship, followed by brunch; and
- ⊕ A Tuesday evening *Taizé at Twilight* for those who cannot attend a Sunday service.
- ⊕ *Cell groups* of up to eight people as the basic building blocks of community and ministry. Each group will meet independently, and undertake its own program of worship, study, support and community service. All will come together at the principle worship services for celebration.
- ⊕ *Felt Needs Small Groups*, as interest arises and lay leadership is available, on such topics as:
  - Keeping your Cool
  - Setting My Moral Compass
  - Being Single and the Spiritual Quest
  - The Christian in a Postmodern World
  - Learning to Love
  - Time for a Checkup
  - Dealing with Grief and Loss
  - Divorce Recovery
  - Healthy Relationships

- Stress Management
- Faith at Work

## Core Values

*METANOIA* stands for:

- ⊕ A focus on Jesus and His Mission
- ⊕ A prayerful seeking of God
- ⊕ God, not a celebrity pastor, as the centre of attention
- ⊕ The Centrality of the Table, not the pulpit.
- ⊕ Liturgical worship
  - Rooted in the Anglican tradition
  - Using Taize styles and music to facilitate opening up the affective (emotional) domain
- ⊕ Quality and Beauty in music
- ⊕ Contemplative Spirituality
- ⊕ Meta Church
  - A balance between the cell church and the community celebration
  - A balance between professional and lay leadership
- ⊕ Building community

## Style of Ministry

*METANOIA* is rooted in the Priesthood of All Believers. Much of our ministry will be lay led and small-group based. Professional ministers exercise servant-leadership, with a focus on empowering and equipping the laity to ministry. In particular, they lead the community celebrations and mentor the leadership coaches for cell group and small group ministries. They also enable the day-to-day operations of *METANOIA*. Cell groups function with a leader raised up by the group, and a leader-in-training in anticipation of reproducing themselves. Felt Needs Small

Groups are led by ministry entrepreneurs who have the skills and experience to facilitate effective and healthy groups.

Worship services are for celebration, praise, thanksgiving and a broader sense of community. They are not expected to accomplish much in the way of ministry. That is the principal function of the Cell Group.

The tools of worship are eclectic, largely contemplative in nature, and are drawn from:

- ⊕ Catholic, Orthodox, Celtic spirituality
- ⊕ The Benedictine tradition
- ⊕ Lectio Divina
- ⊕ Christian Meditation
- ⊕ Respiratory Prayer
- ⊕ The Taize community
- ⊕ The liturgical tradition of the Anglican Communion