



Community Support Nights Hopes, Needs and Fears

This session is designed to flesh out some differences between living in intentional community, and living together simply as roommates or friends. Please read “Steps to Authentic Community” before embarking on this activity.

- 1) For this session, have some time to individually examine what expectations each has had for community life. Ideas may be grouped in the following categories:

Hopes – what each member wished for ideally from community life. (e.g., that the group would eat together seven nights a week, that all would share a political ideology.)

Needs – what each member feels is essential to harmonious life in community. (e.g., that I have personal time to unwind after work, that we rotate bedrooms midway through the year.)

Fears – what each member prefers to not experience in community. (e.g. that outside significant others play a large role in the community, that the food budget is too small.)

- 2) Next, the group can share these ideas and come to some resolution or agreement among differing ideas. This discussion may include more theoretical concepts, but should move toward a concrete understanding of ways of being together.
- 3) Agreements should be written down and kept in an agreed-upon place, for members to reference later in the year.
- 4) Close with prayer, reminding all present that living in community is a deliberate and spiritual act.