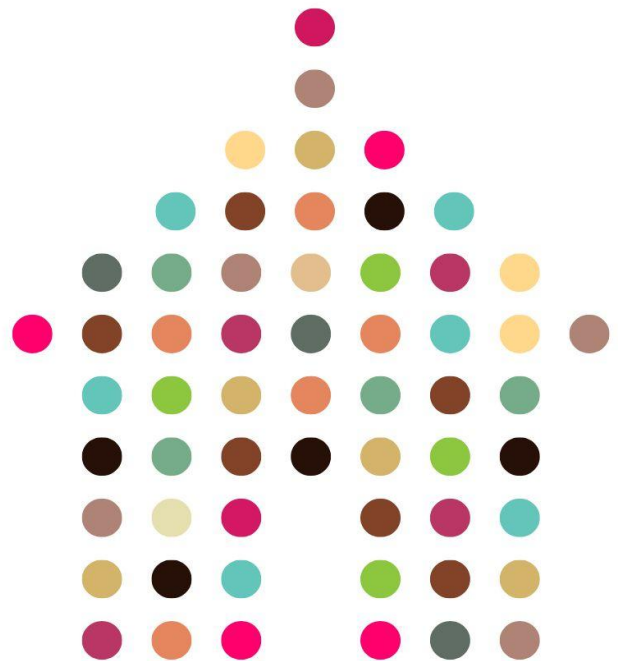




EPHESIANS

We are Jesus' Church

UNITY OF SPIRIT



Ephesians 4 (NLT)

¹ Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. ² Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. ³ Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. ⁴ For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. ⁵ There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all.

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**“The unity of the Triune God is mirrored
in the unity of the Church”**



John 17 (NLT)

²⁰ I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. ²¹ I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. ²² I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. ²³ I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.



Let's invite the Holy Spirit to come – that
the word and works may become one.

-John Wimber

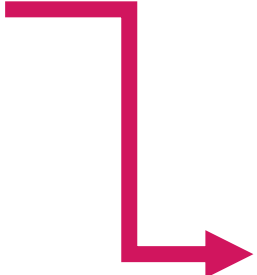


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Ok, but how?

Unity in the Spirit



unity of spirit

	Senior Pastor	Committee	Shared Discernment
How decisions are made	By a single authority (the senior pastor)	By consensus or majority vote	By seeking God's will together
The experience of those involved	Some people have influence, others don't	Compromise (influence-driven)	Unity of spirit emerging from spiritual indifference and a calling to the work
Who's really in charge	Ideally Jesus, but through the sr. pastor, who may delegate authority	Sometimes the loudest voice (majority rule) or the lowest common denominator (consensus)	Jesus speaking to individuals and to the group as a whole

<https://vcclife.org/pastoral-transition-faq-2>

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit”

Willing to Seek God Individually



**“Stay in your lane and
I’ll stay in mine”**

Unity of Spirit

“My way or the highway”

**“Go with the flow” or
“Split the Difference”**

Willing to Seek God with One Another



Because of Jesus' work on the cross,
our reconciliation with God
is completely bound to
our reconciliation with others



“If you can’t earn it,
you can’t be disqualified from it.”

hesed

“loving attachment”



“Being Carefully Joined Together in Jesus”

INTERDEPENDENCE

Whole & Connected

Unity without Uniformity

Jesus-led, Spirit-empowered

“We are unique parts”

Hesed (“Loving Attachment”)

Self-Sufficiency

Insularity

Hyper-Autonomy

Self-Approved

“I don’t need anybody”

Subservience

Tribalism

Groupthink

People-Pleasing

“I must blend in”

INVITATION

- Reflect on your/our willingness to seek God individually and to seek God with one another. Do you/we default more toward one than the other?
- How is Jesus inviting you to grow? Are there specifics?
- Ask Jesus for greater imagination for unity of spirit!

Unity in the Spirit
enabling
Unity of Spirit