



FELLOWSHIP OF THE  
**BURNING HEART**  
a community expression of **Renovaré**

**Core Ideas & Beliefs**

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**Core Values**

# Core Ideas & Beliefs

We are Christian in commitment and ecumenical in breadth. We stand within historic Christian orthodoxy and affirm The Apostles' and the Nicene Creeds.

## **Life with God**

The aim of God in history is the creation of an all-inclusive community of loving persons with the Triune God himself at the center of this community as its prime Sustainer and most glorious Inhabitant. *We seek to be one expression of this “all-inclusive community of loving persons.”*

## **The Availability of God's Kingdom**

We can experience genuine, substantive life in God's Kingdom through Jesus Christ, beginning now and continuing through all eternity.

## **The Necessity of Grace**

We are utterly dependent upon Jesus Christ, our ever-living Savior, Teacher, Lord, and Friend for genuine spiritual transformation.

## **The Means of Grace**

We recognize the crucial importance of intentional spiritual disciplines among the variety of ways God has given for us to be open to his transforming grace.

### **A Balanced Vision of Life in Christ**

We seek to embrace the abundant life of Jesus in all its fullness: contemplative, holiness, charismatic, social justice, evangelical, and incarnational.

### **A Practical Strategy for Spiritual Formation**

We encourage spiritual friendships, small groups, and healthy community as important elements of mutual support and nurture in our transformation.

### **The Centrality of Scripture**

We immerse ourselves in the Bible: it is the great revelation of God's purposes in history, a sure guide for growth into Christlikeness, and a rich resource for our spiritual formation.

### **The Value of the Christian Tradition**

We engage in the historical "Great Conversation" on spiritual formation developed from Scripture by the Church's classical spiritual writings.



# Who We Are

*Facilitator asks a member to read.*

The Fellowship of the Burning Heart is a dispersed community of Jesus' friends who long for deeper intimacy with the Triune God.

We are committed to Jesus, to our shared values and beliefs, to the Renovaré covenant, and to meeting monthly in a Listening Group.

We strive to be a listening community marked by love, availability, and vulnerability. Our hearts and ears are open to God and one another.

Our primary purpose is to grow as disciples of Jesus—for our transformation, the world's good, and God's everlasting glory.

# **Renovaré Covenant**

*Facilitator reads introduction, then all read covenant in unison.*

Longing to love and delight in the Trinity and cooperate in the ongoing work of the Kingdom of God, we commit to gathering together and to living into the Renovaré Covenant.

**In utter dependence upon Jesus Christ as my ever-living Savior, Teacher, Lord, and Friend, I will seek continual renewal through spiritual exercises, spiritual gifts, and acts of service.**

# Core Values

*Starting with the Facilitator, take turns reading aloud.*

1. **We value a high Christology** regarding the person and work of Jesus Christ.
2. **We value Scripture** as a sure guide for growth into Christlikeness.
3. **We value worship and prayer** as central in our life.
4. **We value people as God's image bearers.** In our interactions we resist the temptation to manage impressions, leverage relationships, and fix one another.
5. **We value community** as vital to our transformation into Christlikeness. We offer availability and vulnerability as we honor each person's unique journey with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
6. **We value listening.** As a community we seek to be attentive to the Holy Spirit and one another. This facilitates a welcoming and confidential culture where it is safe to know and be known.
7. **We value honesty and openness,** seeking to love with wise boundaries and discern without judgement.
8. **We value humility** and the freedom it brings. We cherish gratitude, joy, laughter, creativity, and lightheartedness.

9. **We value loving respect.** We are for one another.  
We give encouragement as often as possible.  
We share advice once in a great while.  
We bring correction only when absolutely necessary.  
We condemn never.
10. **We value hospitality of heart,** seeking to learn from our differences.
11. **We value stability.** The Renovaré Covenant and our monthly Listening Group help us live into this spiritual practice.
12. **We value various local expressions of spiritual formation efforts**—relationships, families, small groups, and churches. Spiritual formation always has a local address.