



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

*"...did not our hearts burn within us..." Luke 24:32*

## **Who We Are**

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 one another, to our shared values and beliefs, and to the Renovaré covenant as a general rule of life. We share brief monthly connections, and an annual local gathering retreat.

We strive to be a listening community of diverse denominational expressions marked by love, availability and vulnerability to God and one another in friendship, mutual support, and encouragement in the with-God life.

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

## **The Renovaré Covenant**

*Individually and corporately we commit to gathering together and to the Renovaré Covenant as a rule of life. This helps us to dearly love and delight in the Trinity and to cooperate in the ongoing work of the Kingdom of God.*

**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

1. **We value a high Christology** regarding the person and work of Jesus Christ.
2. **We value worship and prayer** as central in our community.
3. **We value Scripture** as a sure guide for growth into Christlikeness. We engage in the historical great conversation about the growth of the soul in classical Christian writings.
4. **We value community** as important in our transformation into Christlikeness. We offer availability and vulnerability as we honor the sacredness, mystery, and individual pace of each person's unique experience with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
5. **We value stability** as spiritually significant in a culture of isolating discontentment. We commit to support one another through monthly Listening Groups and an annual Gathering Retreat.
6. **We value listening.** As a community we seek to be attentive to the Holy Spirit and one another. This creates 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 people as God's image bearers.** In our interactions we seek to forgo temptations of impression-management, leveraging relationships, and fixing one another.
9. **We value humility** and the freedom it brings. We cherish gratitude, joy, laughter, creativity, and lightheartedness in our community life together.
10. **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.
11. **We value each person's unique gifting.** Our gatherings are relationally focused and member-led, with each person serving as appropriate and helpful. Our time together is a blend of teaching, practice, and community.
12. **We value various local expressions of spiritual formation efforts**—relationships, families, small groups, and local churches. Spiritual formation always has a local address.



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## 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.