

Vital characteristics of church for the de-churched:

- Nurture authentic relationships
- Help people feel like they belong, regardless of 'involvement'
- People do not feel subjugated by others expectations
- have the freedom express faith in an individualised way
- expression of faith must be authentic
- permission for people to be real
- freedom to doubt, question, and no pressure to accept pat answers
- have desire for the contemplative space as a counter to the accelerating pace of their everyday lives
- to participate rather than be a spectator
- Engaging with the story of God must include the opportunity to interact with the story as opposed to being taught the meaning of the text from a religious expert
- Have no expectations that one must agree with the one in leadership
- a strong commitment to the historic orthodox beliefs of the Christian faith, at the same time allowing adaptation to relate to the changing New Zealand context.
- connect Gods story with peoples story of everyday life or work, leisure, study and healthy family life
- include tolerance and respect of others, and express an informal, adaptable, egalitarian and inclusive environment
- Outside resources must be used with care to alleviate any suspicion of an imported programme or system to follow.
- Leaders must be both male and female, clergy and lay, and carry with them a humility that understands their role or serving the community.
- All things carry with it a sense of invitation, rather than expectation or pressure. At the same time ownership of the community journey is valued highly
- Activity needs to connect with peoples own aspirations for life, as opposed to having any sense of maintaining the life of the church
- Learn how to lament well

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Sources:

Kiwi Church member interviews 2015/16, and learning since then

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