

# North End Collective Summer Renewal 2022



## Week 1: What is the Church?

Opening Question:

What's the **first** thing that comes to mind when you think about the church? Is it a location? Is it a set of activities (singing, preaching, communion)? Is it a specific group of people? Is it a list of programs or ministries?

Are these thoughts mostly positive or negative (or somewhere in between)?

We (North End Collective) fundamentally believe the Church is the tangible expression of Christ in our City, made known by any group of people who commit to embracing three rhythms: **Worshipping** together, experiencing **Community** together, and living on **Mission** together.

While the Church can certainly be more than this, it can never be less.

This is what we call the **irreducible minimum**. Wherever these three things are present, then we have found an expression of the church in our midst!

We actually see Jesus living this out. **Take a moment and read Luke 6:12-19.**

Notice that Jesus spends time with the Father in prayer (Worship), that he calls his disciples to him (Community), and that he goes into the city to proclaim the good news and heal those who are sick (Mission).

Jesus is modeling for us what it looks like to be the church, in its most basic form, right before our very eyes!

Think of the difference Jesus and this small group of people made in the world in a relatively short period of time without a building, programs, or even a church budget!

While the church is a collective experience, it might be helpful to think about how you or your family are already living into these three rhythms. Take a moment and rate yourself!

**On a scale of 1-10 (1 being low; 10 being high) how would you rate yourself on:**

\_\_\_ WORSHIP

\_\_\_ COMMUNITY

\_\_\_ MISSION

Which one comes easiest for you?  
Which one do you find most challenging?

Remember, while it's sometimes easy to reduce the church to only one of these rhythms, Jesus invites us into all three! It is only when we find ourselves in the confluence of all of them that we experience the church as Jesus intended!