



4

sides of a Fellowship



Welcome

We are happy to present this leaflet about Christian Fellowship in Rødovre. The leaflet presents 4 sides of the fellowship - **Vision, Fellowship, Ministry, and Finance** - 4 sides of importance to our lives and for the message we wish to bring to the world around us.

A congregation with Jesus at the center, where we experience faith as a living thing, and where we get to know each other well. A congregation where we desire to serve and put the abilities and gifts God has blessed us with into use.

We believe that our congregation, despite all the things that can go wrong, is a part of the spiritual family which God has chosen to use here on Earth! We cannot answer every question, and we do not subscribe to any specific solutions - but we want to do our best for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

The leaflet does not seek to uncover all aspects of the life of the congregation - and may not express the views of everybody.

Before we start our way through the 4 sides, we would like to briefly describe the history of Christian Fellowship in Rødovre and the way we view the role of the Church.

We hope that this booklet may make you want to become part of our fellowship. To the glory of God and the benefit of us all!

Welcome!





History

Christian Fellowship began in 1947 as "White Fields" - a prayer and support group which backed two missionaries. The prayer group started Bible teaching, and from this point the work grew to comprise youth work, retreats, and seminars.

By 1955, "White Fields" had grown to the extent where it seemed natural to form a free church and celebrate services every Sunday. The congregation was from then on called Christian Fellowship (in the following also called CF).

CF's view on the Church

The Holy Spirit was given to all believers when they first believed. The fullness of the Holy Spirit is evident by the fruit of the Spirit, not necessarily by special spiritual gifts.

The whole Bible is the unerring word of God, revealed by the Holy Spirit, and gives direction to the Church.

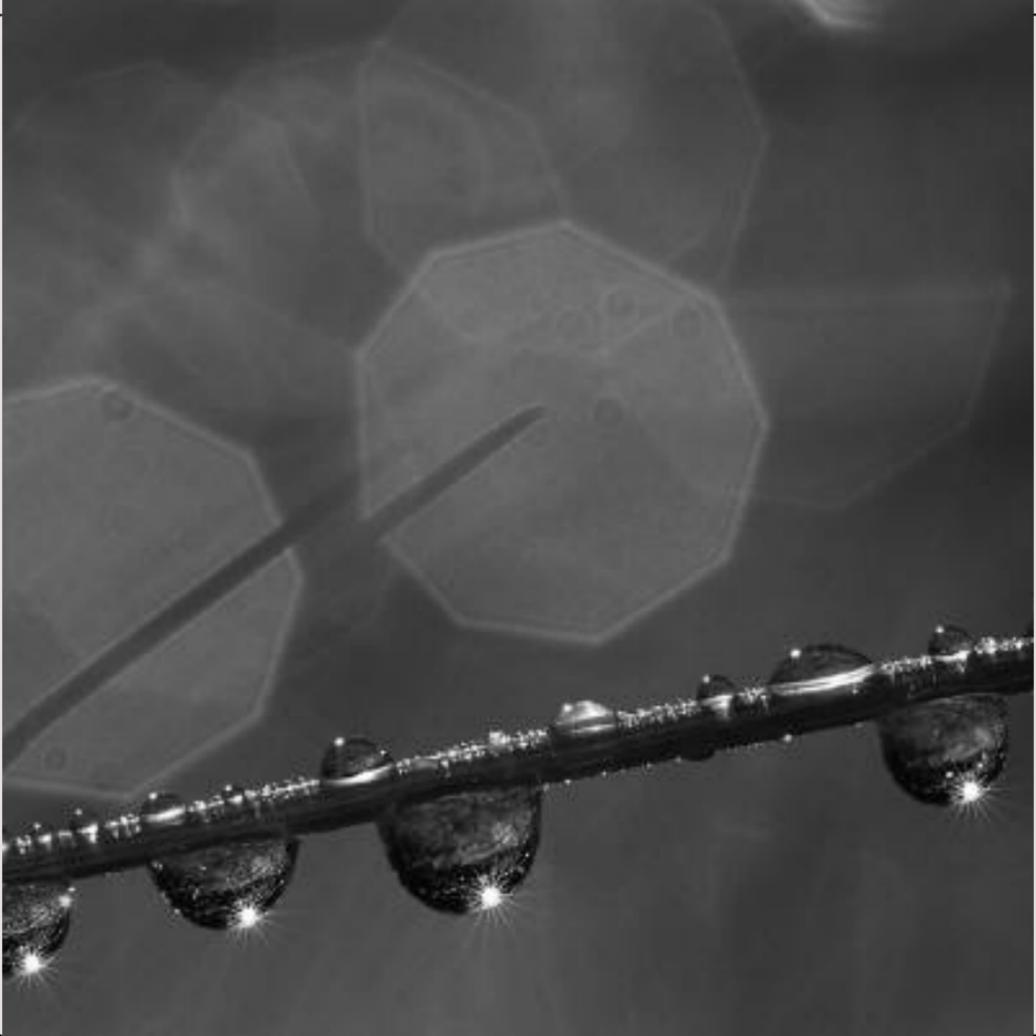
The church is a spiritual family of which you become a member when you first believe. CF seeks to practise church life as simply as outlined in the New Testament.

We do not register members, but are open to everybody who wants to follow Jesus Christ.

The church practises baptism on request from those who find the faith. There is no obligation to be baptized again for those who can rest in their infant baptism.

Christian Fellowship today consists of independent congregations in Copenhagen (Rødovre), North Zealand (Hillerød), and Funen (Odense). They are led by co-opting groups of elders.





Vision

Our goals and values can be summed up in the following sentence:

"We want to help people find faith in Jesus Christ and become whole-hearted followers of Him"

For this to succeed, we have chosen to emphasize the following areas of church life. Together, these areas try to cover both ordinary and feast days - personal faith and practical fellowship.

In relation to God

Worship - that God's greatness calls for a repentance from the heart

Teaching - that the Bible is the measuring rod of our teaching, attitude, and walk

Experiences - that God gives individuals personal experiences through the Holy Spirit

In relation to the believer

Discipleship - that the believer is called to imitate Jesus and thus become more and more like him

Spiritual gifts - that God gives spiritual gifts to all believers in order to build up the kingdom of God

Fellowship - that the Christian life is expressed in caring relationships both within and outside of the church fellowship

In relation to the world around us

The Great Commission - that Jesus is the only way to God, and that God has chosen to make himself known through the Church

Society - that the Church is there to serve and be involved in society

Visibility - that the Gospel is expressed most clearly through culturally relevant, high quality means of communication

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

Matthew 28:19-20



Fellowship

The Sunday morning service is the highlight of the church - but how about the rest of the week?

The service in itself can hardly cover all social and spiritual needs, and therefore it is important that all who want to make Christian Fellowship in Rødovre their spiritual home has the option to be part of a smaller fellowship – a network group.

A place where you get to know others and you get to be known by others. A place of service and of being served. A place of accepting others and being accepted.

The core of these groups is our shared faith in Jesus. For this reason, Bible studies, worship, and prayer are important elements of the group. These elements are weighted differently from group to group.

The teen and youth groups function as fellowships in a similar way. Here, each individual is looked after, and many find that Christianity gets a face and becomes relevant and safe.

To supplement the network groups, we offer time limited training, where you can dive into a specific area. For instance Alpha seminars, Preacher's Workshop, a Genesis study circle, studies on child rearing, visitation ministry etc. – only the imagination (and time) sets the limits. Current offers are listed in the church magazine and on our Internet home page.

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 2:42



Ministry

Just like in any other home, there are many tasks in a church which need to be done for everything to work. There are jobs to be done around the service, both practical and with regard to the service contents. There are many branches of ministry among children and young people, adults and the elderly. There are needs around us – a Gospel to be proclaimed – and a building to be maintained!

If you have chosen to make CF your spiritual home, it will be natural for you to find a place where you can use the gifts God has given you.

We try to man all branches of ministry with volunteers who take responsibility for the task and invest their time and abilities. Some areas are doing fine, other areas are in need of resources!

To help each one find the right ministry, we carry out a so-called "Spiritual Gift Course" at regular intervals. The course sets out in the fact that we have all received abilities and gifts from God – spiritual gifts to be used in service. How does that influence my work in the church?

This course is very practical in nature. What is my passion? Where are my abilities? How do I work best?

The course ends with an interview where each participant has the opportunity to figure out which ministry he or she should be involved in, or be confirmed in being in the right place.

The possibilities are many and varied. Some are very visible – others almost hidden. However, they all influence the well-being of the church:

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:4-5



Finances

As mentioned earlier, the work is mainly carried by volunteer workers. However, the congregation has chosen to keep a few part-time workers with a salary in order to enable them to spend the time needed for church work.

CF also has other expenses to cover: rents and maintenance; fees for external speakers; supporting mission societies, missionaries, and humanitarian work in different countries; meetings and office expenses; church magazine and web page. CF does not receive government benefits, and all expenses are covered by voluntary gifts. In practise, those who go to services regularly and view CF as their church home share the expenses.

We believe that the Bible is clear about the need for a Christian to give part of his income to the church as well as to charity. However, we do not wish to pressure people into paying fixed amounts, as we believe that basically this is a matter between the individual's conscience and God. This is expressed in the Bible in the following way:

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2. Corinthians 9:7

If you view CF as your church, we will encourage you to contribute to the running of the church. You can do this by putting money in the collection boxes in the church or by transferring your gift to one of CF's accounts.

Gifts to CF are tax deductible – both using the general deduction rule which allows deductions of up to DKK 5000 and using a so-called gift deed.

If you have any questions pertaining to your giving options, about taxation rules, or about CF's finances in general, you are very welcome to ask the church treasurer.



Practical information

Contacts:

Children's Church

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Pre-teens

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Teens

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For other e-mail addresses and ministries, see our home page:

www.kristentf.dk



With this leaflet we want to tell you about Christian Fellowship in Rødovre. A fellowship made up of people who want to live out their faith in Jesus Christ in their everyday lives.

**What are our expectations of this fellowship and of each other?
And how can we be involved in a good and inspiring way?**

We have chosen to focus on 4 sides of church life. It is our hope that after reading this, you will feel inspired to start exploring Christian Fellowship - and make it your church!

On behalf of the congregation

The leadership group

January 2004