

The Community of Faith

TOPIC FOUR:
BEING THE
CHURCH

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of Faith

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HOW MANY TIMES have you heard the claim, “I’m a Christian, but I don’t go to church”? For people coming from an Anabaptist perspective, this statement is hard to understand. Anabaptists have always seen the church as integral to Christian life. Church is not an optional part of being a Christian. It’s not just a matter of “going to church,” it’s a matter of “being the church.” Congregations are the location where our faith is nurtured, and where we nurture others. The church is the *hermeneutical community*, the place where we together can discern what God is teaching us through Scripture.

Scripture reminds us that the community of faith is one of the primary contexts where we work out our faith. We are called to love the brothers and sisters with whom we live and worship. In this series of sessions, we will explore some issues that challenge our faithfulness as we live together in faith communities.

—Carol Penner

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers!

Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

MARK 3:31-35

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