

Washtenaw Call To Action Responses to “Why CTA?”

Response	(1) What is our CTA group about?	(2) Why do you attend CTA?	(3) If you were going to tell a friend why they should come to CTA, what would you say to them?
1	We are an intentional Eucharistic Community who explore our spiritual life together. We share opportunities to take our commitment to social justice out into the community.	Spiritual enrichment and opportunities to put faith into action. A loving trusting environment in which to nurture spiritual growth.	If you are searching for an accepting community committed to social justice you would find like-minded people here. If you are open to studying spirituality and would benefit from sharing thoughts with other students of spirituality you will find that here.
2	Create a worshipful context for group sharing. With idea that the Church can be nudged forward by small vanguards of truth. Seeking followers with a wider understanding of who Jesus was and what he taught.	Feeling of belonging with friends sharing set of values. Becoming exposed to others deeper insights as they emerge in the moment – as a gift to the whole group. The dynamic presence of God at work in the present moment.	If you'd like to recover a lost connection with other Catholics who are thinking outside the box. To realize that the Church isn't totally mired in the tradition only. Connect with the future of the Church.
3	It's a group that promotes sharing, love and inclusiveness.	It is my church – my intentional church, where I am free to acknowledge what is in my heart.	Every 4 th Sunday afternoon, it will do your source of enlightenment, humor and sustenance for the next 4 weeks!
4	Seeing Catholicism under reform stages – to pray – to grow in compassion – to find truth – to share friendship to grow deeper into Spirit of Jesus.	Hanging for dear life – A longing to be with Source. No better place for me – freedom – support. Spirit of Jesus is among us when we gather.	At least come 1 time – Check us out. Learn the spirituality of Jesus. Learn about God --- Jesus teaches us about God “Abba”. God does not teach us about Jesus!!!
5	I'm not sure what the CTA is about, that is why I am here: to hear from more progressive voices within the Catholic community.	I attended the CTA to find out more about them, to hear their stance on different issues, including women's position(s) within the Church, LGBTQ issues, war, etc. – and what we should do about them, especially what we can do within our own church(es).	I'm not sure what I'd tell them, as this is my first time attending the CTA. But I'd encourage them to come to hear different perspectives of issues mentioned above, and more within the Catholic community.
6	It's about those of us who believe that reform should come about in the hierarchical church, and in the meantime many of our group would rather not support the “official” church.	I attend the monthly liturgies because it is my means of worship with others. I agree with its theological beliefs and enjoy the liturgies which we take turns planning and leading with many varied themes, which one wouldn't hear in an established Catholic Church. I also really enjoy the fellowship and the potluck meals at the end.	In our liturgies on the last Sunday of each month everyone has a chance to share their thoughts and everyone acts as the “priest” when it's time for the consecration.

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7	I see the group as an alternative to the traditional Catholic liturgies each Sunday. The group decides the focus of, how to gather in community, rather than continue the traditional Catholic liturgies at Mass. Members of the group express his or her beliefs in the meaning of Eucharist, after reflecting on his or her own life experiences. Those beliefs may differ from historical, traditional ecclesiology. Also, the members believe they are meeting within the spirit of laypersons' empowerment as defined in the II Vatican Council.	I have learned a lot from other person's sharings and want to experience a liturgy that has come forth from persons who believe in the spirit of the Council, which I believe was an inspired document.	I would tell them what I have written above in #'s 1 and 2.
8	Community. Sharing/Caring.	People.	Progressive, caring community.
9	A spiritual community coming together to enrich our lives.	I come to enrich my spiritual life by gathering with others in a non-threatening environment where everyone is welcome. I have become disillusioned by the Catholic Church! I am not ready to “go it alone”.	Come to gather with others to celebrate meaningful liturgy. Come to enrich your spirituality with a welcoming group of people determined to support and love all people.
10	We gather to “ritualize” the insights of the new story of creation – focusing more on Jesus than in “the Christ” – less focused on Fall/Redemption theology – incorporating lots of the mysteries opened up to us from modern science.	Gather with like-minded – yet diverse – folks who are truly seeking an integrated spirituality that incorporates an gives meaning to their own lives – a “this world” spirituality.	If you are a seeker – do come. If lots of “religious stuff” does not make sense to your – do come.
11	Our CTA group is composed largely of Catholics and former Catholics who gather monthly to share prayer services and to share ways in which to support issues of peace and justice.	Our CTA group is my intentional church. It provides a setting in which, with like-minded individuals, I can follow the teaching of Jesus of Nazareth: love God and love one another. It also allows me to pursue my interest in Judaism, the religion into which Jesus was born.	If you no longer attend Mass and don't wish to convert to a Protestant faith, why not attend a CTA gathering? You would find the group understanding, stimulating, warm and welcoming.

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12	<p>We can begin with our mission statement: "...informs, equally affirms and inspires the people of God to seek justice, peace, to build inclusive communities and to follow the prophetic message of Jesus." This is the core of what defines us as a group. This is specifically expressed through our group worship ritual, our interests and outreach to other faith and non-faith communities who share our mission. We accept and actively recruit individuals who are marginalized. We advocate for those that are disenfranchised in our communities and are unprotected by the more powerful and traditional segments of our society. We also explore through our readings and discussions theological ideas addressing these values.</p>	<p>This is a very personal choice that I am making. I was looking for a group of people and a way in which to worship that felt authentic and in sync with my past Roman Catholic background. I have searched groups and churches in the area and have not been satisfied. I have a deep need to sing and pray with like-minded individuals. I find this at CTA Washtenaw Area and at times wish we could meet more often.</p>	<p>Tremendous changes have taken place in the manner in which we as a human global family approach gender, class, ethnic identity, issues of equality and approaches to the intersection of God and science. CTA Washtenaw Area is a group (primarily Roman Catholics active during Vatican II reforms) which seeks to support and propagate inclusive practices and theologies by: 1. praying together, 2. discussing common action, and 3. exploring new theologies that celebrate humanity and spiritual awareness. In other words we pray together, discuss together and promote collective action on equality and inclusiveness.</p>
13	<p>Our CTA--WA community is an outgrowth of Vatican 2, and we strive to evolve in our thinking and being by learning to follow the message of Jesus.</p>	<p>I like the phrase: "We don't become ourselves by ourselves." I have found that it takes a community searching together for the truth, the meaning of life, to build a person, step by step.</p>	<p>What? Your job is boring? And your Sunday ritual is too? And your life is also boring? Come, check-out our Call To Action community next Sunday and see if our liturgies speak to you as we seek the meanings of Jesus' message of love which develops inner growth and inter-action with people. Our liturgies are informative and spiritual ---- sometimes very serious, sometimes fun. Oh, here we are at your 26th floor. What? You don't want to get out?</p>

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14	Our CTA group is an example of an intentional Eucharistic community. As written in our mission statement, our CTA group is a community of believers who are seeking peace and justice by following the message of Jesus.	I come to CTA gatherings because I enjoy being in the company of people who are exploring their spirituality and have religious and political leanings similar to my own. I come to break bread with them and reflect on the many blessings in my life, as well as share life's disappointments. I attend to support others in their spiritual journey as they support me in mine.	I would explain to my friend who is looking for a faith community that is an alternative to a regular Catholic (or other) parish, that she/he should come to CTA because we offer a way to explore and celebrate our spirituality in a manner that tries to be non-patriarchal and nonsexist. We gather to think about just what our beliefs actually are and how they have been evolving. We recognize that spirituality is an integral part of who we are and we explore how it is present in our lives. We discuss the ways it calls us to act politically for peace and justice in our world, how our faith is (or could be) lived out every day.
15	Our Call To Action community members are primarily from Catholic backgrounds who have a progressive vision of an inclusive community who try and live out the Gospel's message that “yes, we are our sisters' and brothers' keepers”.	Washtenaw CTA is a community-led intentional Eucharistic community where the sharing of bread and wine continues Jesus' message of offering support to all through table fellowship. This support helps us in our various ways of addressing peace and justice in our everyday lives, to live out “yes, we are our sisters' and brothers' keepers”. Our liturgy dialogs and book discussion group allow the sharing of ideas such as evolutionary Christianity, cosmology and our ideas of “God”, etc., to “stretch our minds”.	If you have a Catholic background and/or are searching for a spiritual home that is striving for an inclusive community, come and break bread with us. Our affiliation with National Call To Action helps us to be aware of global peace and justice issues, whether they are church or society related.
16		The primary motivation for me is to come together for support in my spiritual path; to be around other people who are as unsure and confused about God and religion, as I am. I want, primarily, to have hope. Hope for a better, more just world, hope for a better understanding of the “Jesus event” and what it means to me each day. I appreciate friends and supporters on the journey as a more mature follower of Jesus, not a fixer of the institutional church.	