



## FAQs

Below are some answers to questions we are often asked.  
If your answer isn't here, do contact us.

### 1. How do I apply?

Head to the 'Is it for me?' document first, to read through the considerations necessary for applying. Then, hit the 'apply' button!

The application process involves an online form which asked for some basic information about you and some questions about why you want to come and join us. This is not a test, but simply there to help us discern together if the community is the right place for you.

The online form normally has two stages, the second is additional questions which take a little longer to answer and go into more depth. The final stage is an interview which is normally done via Zoom.

Please be assured of our prayers during the process and don't be afraid to ask (by using the 'contact us' section of the website) if you have any questions.

**Residential applications for 2023-24 open in January 2023, and close in April.  
Local applications are open until the end of June.**

### 2. What about money?

The Community at the Crossing is non-profit, funded by donations. It therefore needs the support of philanthropic individuals, foundations, and corporate partners in order to make this vision a reality. Members are not chosen based on their ability to pay - finance should not be an obstacle to applying to the program.

We do recognize that giving financially is an important way to express the value that each member places on community membership. Upon acceptance to the program, you will be put in touch with a member of our team, who you will be able to talk about setting goals for fundraising and giving, as well as receiving support from them. You will never be alone in this, and you may be surprised by how God wishes to use others to bless you.

### 3. Why the age limit?

The Community at the Crossing is open to 21 - 30 year-olds. This period of life is often where the most foundational decisions for a person's life are made, and so it is for this generation that we want to prioritise this opportunity of deep formation. By gathering young adults from around the world, the Community brings together people who have very little common ground other than their love for Jesus. Being in a roughly similar stage of life helps people relate to one another as brothers and sisters.



#### **4. What is spiritual accompaniment?**

A weekly meeting with a 'companion'; someone to walk the journey with you who is a little further up the road. This is not spiritual direction. You will not find they give you the 'answers' but rather offer a mirror back to help you see what God is saying to you. To help you trust that you can hear the voice of God in your life. Spiritual companions at the Community at the Crossing are trained in the Ignatian style of accompaniment.

#### **5. What is the link with the Cathedral of St John the Divine?**

The birth of the community came about through a number of ecumenical encounters. The Acting Dean of the Cathedral, Patrick Malloy, met the Chemin Neuf Community (a Roman Catholic community with an ecumenical vocation) in 1987 in Paris, and later the Community of St Anselm (an ecumenical community for young adults) at Lambeth Palace in 2016. These encounters, nourished by prayer and conversation, led to the founding of this ecumenical community by the Cathedral, encouraged by Pope Francis, Archbishop Justin Welby, and the Ecumenical Patriarch (watch the launch service here).

The community is run by the ecumenical partnership between the Episcopal cathedral and the Roman Catholic community Chemin Neuf. This partnership is committed to the personal journey and faithfulness of each person to their own Christian denomination.

#### **6. Do I have to be from a certain church background?**

The community is open to all Christians from any denomination, church or tradition.

Our sincere hope and prayer is that through the experience of community we will learn from the strengths of our different experiences and styles of worship. Each year the community is comprised of a large variety of very different traditions. This is a blessing – enabling us to experience first-hand the treasures of different parts of the Christian Family.

#### **7. Why the different types of membership?**

We believe that the differences in membership is a source of riches for each person.

It is one community with two types of membership. These types of membership are identical in validity, but asymmetric in time commitment.

Local members will experience transformation primarily through the implication of the rhythms of the community rule in their current workplace, home life, student experience.

Residential members will experience transformation primarily through the intense shared community life.

Both of these experiences are a source of riches for the other - coming together to pray and share as one body enables the sharing and building-up of the body.

Everybody has a unique relationship with Jesus Christ, with unique turning points and life stages. Residential membership will not be right for everybody, in the same way that Local membership will not be right for everybody. The application process is designed to help us discern together (the team and the applicant) where God is calling them.



## **8. What is a Rule of Life?**

Communities and individuals around the world live by a rule of life. It's not a set of rules as much as an expression of how we live together well. The Community at the Crossing draws from the St Anselm rule, which is in turn drawn from the Rule of St Benedict. It helps us to gather around the core aims, responsibilities and the many joyful opportunities we share as a community. It gives us the chance to keep one another accountable to a shared set of values, while honouring the traditions we've inherited from many generations of faithful believers.

We sometimes talk about our rule as like the handrail on the stairs. It's always there showing the way and is there for us to hold onto when we need it. Each year we discuss the same words afresh and seek God's inspiration to guide us in our shared life together.

## **9. What about holidays and staying in touch with family and friends?**

For both Residential and Local members, as an intentional community, we choose during this year to take a step back from and adapt our normal rhythms of holidays and communication, in order to prioritise the relationships with those with whom we share daily and community life. However, this does not mean a blanket-ban of any form, as it is important to be able to stay in touch with family and friends.

For Residential members, there are times built into the program for silence and solitude, as well as communication and leisure. We are in the centre of New York City, and there is wifi everywhere... The period from September to June will privilege holidays with the community, but there will be some opportunity to visit or to be visited by family and friends.

For Local members, these times of silence and solitude will be integrated into current professional or student life. Members will be accompanied in their reflection on how this year's commitment invites them to adapt particular rhythms of how free time or holiday is used.