



Valley Gate Vineyard

We are looking for a person or a couple with pastoral experience who will come on staff at Valley Gate Vineyard to co-lead with Rik and Cathy Berry with the aim of taking over the senior leadership when Rik and Cathy retire in another year.

Valley Gate background:

Valley Gate is situated in Kentville, NS, in the heart of the Annapolis Valley. A number of towns sit back to back stretching 200 kilometres all the way down the valley. Farming, fishing and the arts proliferate the economy.

The church began in 1999 in Rik and Cathy's house, migrated to a high school soon after, and finally put down roots in an old movie theatre in downtown Kentville. Rik and Cathy both have done post-graduate studies for ministry and have encouraged a love of the arts, an emphasis on contemplative and community living, and a passion to see the church live out what Jesus did and taught.

The old town of Kentville is a regional centre for the courts and the largest hospital for the Valley. In contrast to the many professionals in the town, there are many lower income people, those who face mental health challenges or addictions, and a struggling younger population often on the streets.

In response, Valley Gate began the Refuge housing with 10 bedrooms for young men off the street in 2010. Soon after, we also started the Portal Youth Centre which aims to help at-risk teens, especially in the area of housing. Today, the Portal is an independent, fully funded organization. Housing continues to be a focus for us at Valley Gate.

In the 23 years since it was planted, Valley Gate Vineyard has moved through a number of phases and size. We currently have a number of young families with kids, the oldest being junior high age.

Who we are looking for:

The person or couple should be bi-vocational with some independent income to augment a modest salary from Valley Gate. Responsibilities would be negotiated. [Housing in the Annapolis Valley is probably among the least expensive in Canada.]

Our hope is that the person or couple would have skill in gathering people, teaching, organizing house groups, administrating a collective vision, and have a profound sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Pastoral experience with post-grad training would be preferable. However it is possible that they might take courses at Acadia Divinity School which is located 8 kms. from Valley Gate Vineyard.

Key Values and Practices

Our key values include a balance between the journey inward [spiritual] and the journey outward [practical]. We value the deep inner spiritual life of worship and the mystery of how God touches and heals lives today. We value the act of learning to love one another as Jesus taught us. We value the outward practice of caring for people in greatest need around us, both right on our street and far away. We value all individuals and all kinds of families. We love children, friendship, meals together, and laughing and crying together. We think the resources God has given us, including where we live and our whole environment, should be used in ways that give life to others.

At Valley Gate, we believe that the Christian life is more than talk. To this end, we set people in motion in their walk with Jesus with interactive teaching that tries to balance what we say and teach with action.