

Guidelines

Rivendell is supported by a Christian community, rooted in the gospel values of prayer, silence, simplicity, hospitality and social action. The hosts at each site endeavour to provide a sacred place for individuals and groups who seek spiritual renewal, and who wish to deepen their spiritual lives. The principles that reflect this intention are as follows:

Silence

A peaceful ambience is encouraged at all times at all Sacred Spaces. The Hermitage, in particular, is designed for silent retreats. At the Lodge there are quiet hours throughout the building from 10 pm to 7 am. The Listening Post is a peaceful sanctuary in the heart of Vancouver's downtown eastside.

Prayer

Rivendell's rhythm of worship offers times of gathered prayer. At two of our locations – the Sanctuary at the Lodge and the loft in the Forest House of Prayer at the Hermitage, - 8am and 5pm are designated times for prayer. Those on retreat at the Cottage and the Writer's Retreat are welcome to join at the Sanctuary. At the Listening Post prayer times are at 1 and 3 pm.

Centering prayer, usually held at 8 am at the Lodge and Hermitage and at 1 and 3 pm at the Listening Post consists of 20 minutes silence for those who would like to gather for centering prayer or meditation.

5pm is considered our sacred hour at the Lodge, Cottage and Hermitage. It begins with a time of gathered prayer using music, readings, and/or contemplative practices such as lectio divina. All are invited to enter into this sacred hour in an intentional way at all sites fostering a quiet atmosphere.

Hospitality

In welcoming retreatants to Rivendell as hosts from many Christian traditions, we are open to people of all spiritual paths, but we ask that everyone who comes respects the rhythms of Rivendell in which Jesus is honoured and God's presence is assumed.

We give preferential option to marginalized and not-for-profit groups. In this vein, for each site accommodating overnight retreats, our principle of accessibility invites each retreatant, whether on group or personal retreat, to pay as generously as they can within their means for their stay. We are able to offer Revenue Canada

charitable receipts for amounts contributed over \$100 per person per day. We are able to accept cash, cheque or e-transfer for payment.

The recommended minimum retreat stay for the Lodge, Cottage and Hermitage is two nights. Exceptions to this are made from time to time. The Writer's Retreat can book for longer periods of a few weeks or more.

Retreats at the overnight Sacred Spaces normally begin by 3pm on the first day and finish by noonday on the final morning.

Simplicity

Cleaning before leaving is an essential & sacred part of respecting the space. We ask groups to allow enough time and intent for this part of their program.

We ask that retreatants limit the use of all phones and computers on line while on retreat. Wi-fi is not available at the Cottage.

Alcoholic beverages may be used sparingly and in the context of evening meals, with consideration for supporting a peaceful ambience.

Social Action

The Rivendell Community is committed to working towards reconciliation with the Indigenous peoples of our land, recognizing that Nəxwələxwm (Bowen Island) is traditional Skwxwú7mesh territory and the Listening Post in Vancouver is located on traditional xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) territory.

We are committed to give preferential option to marginalized and not-for-profit groups and to limiting barriers of access.

Recognizing that we live in a world in which injustice and inequality take a spiritual toll on us, we are committed to supporting change-makers whose contemplative practice strengthens their ability to take action on fundamental issues of justice in our world.

We believe all five of our sacred spaces are living sanctuaries. We invite all who come to be custodians of their own living spaces and common areas, cooperating in the practices of recycling and conservation of energy as well as following general guidelines for community living and cleaning.