

Solarpunk Christian Comparative Field Notes on Contemporary Christian Orders
By Kris Smiley
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Purpose: To outline how contemporary Christian orders differ in character and form from Solarpunk Christianity.

NAME:	Order of the Mustard Seed	Order of Common Life	Northumbria Community	Order of the Sacred Earth
	<p>-Relaunched in February 11, 2005</p> <p>https://www.orderofthemuustardseed.com/</p> <p>“an ecumenical, lay-led, dispersed community, inspired by the original Moravian OMS of the 18th Century.”</p> <p>Associated with the Church of England having been given “lay ecumenical Religious Order from The House of Bishops.”</p>	<p>-Formed May 2024</p> <p>https://www.orderofthecommonlife.org/</p> <p>“The Order of the Common Life is led as a religious institute under the ecclesial authority of Vineyard USA and governed as a nonprofit under the legal authority of its board of directors”</p>	<p>-Formed in the late 1970’s and early 1980</p> <p>https://www.northumbriacommunity.org/</p> <p>“As a Community we have been – and are – united in the quest for ‘a new monasticism’: a Northumbrian spirituality. Not as an escapist, nostalgic quest for a golden era that didn’t exist, or to replicate the past, but informed by the Celtic monastic tradition which is our heritage. We are ‘looking with them to Him who inspires us both’ in order to find a way to engage with the paradox and complexities of real life as it is.”</p>	<p>–formed in</p>

Founding vision	<p>“Today’s OMS shares the wider objectives of the 24-7 Prayer movement, to revive the church and to re-wire the culture, through the mobilisation of prayer, mission and justice.”</p>	<p>“Reimagining monasticism into ordinary life, for the health of the whole Church.”</p>	<p>“We are a dispersed Christian Community scattered across the world yet united in our commitment to a daily rhythm of prayer and a common Rule of Life in saying Yes to Availability to God and others and Yes to intentional Vulnerability before God and others.”</p>	
Core Practices	<p>Six Spiritual Principles: True to Christ, Living Prayerfully, Celebrating Creativity, Kind to People, Practicing Hospitality, Mercy & Justice, Taking the Gospel to the Nations, Engaging Mission & Evangelism, Learning & Discipleship</p> <p>+Rule of Life</p> <p>+Covenant</p>	<p>Rhythms: Bodily Labor, Prayer, Study, Rest</p> <p>+Rule of Life</p> <p>Commitments: Silence & Contemplation, Spiritual Direction, Spiritual Friendship, Discernment within Community, Simplicity, Consecration of Love in Calibacy & Marriage, Hospitality, Expression Faults & Affirmations, Formational. Healing, Shared Economy, Shared Work, Service to the Church</p>	<p>+Rule of Life: “The Rule we embrace and keep will be that of Availability and Vulnerability”</p> <p>+Daily Prayer</p> <p>+Covenant</p> <p>+Ethos</p> <p>+Pilgrimage</p> <p>+Retreat</p>	
Structure	<p>Membership: Season of Exploration -> Season of</p>	<p>Membership: Postulant -> Novitiate -> Vows</p>	<p>Membership: Highly selective by invitation only, after sustained</p>	

	<p>Preparation -> Vows</p> <p>Unclear leadership</p>	<p>Some hierarchy and clear leadership</p>	<p>official friendship with the community</p> <p>Leadership</p>	
<p>Economics</p>	<p>Bi-vocational. No mention of sharing resources.</p>	<p>No shared purse but "committed to meeting the needs of our members"</p>	<p>Dispersed community members live on their own livelihood.</p> <p>Pooled resources for retreat center and publications.</p>	
<p>Culture/ Aesthetics</p>	<p>Anglo-centered (based out of the UK), more international, relational, very loose and decentralized, organized around events and online portals, several years old</p>	<p>White christian mid-western culture, millennial/X-er, neo-monastic, brand new</p>	<p>Celtic spirituality, began in Northumbria/northern England community with members that have spread to North America and Australia</p> <p>Runs older generation</p>	
<p>Theological Tone</p>	<p>Nicene creed but otherwise non-polemic, prayerful to a fault, missional, pentecostal and anglican theology, recovering ancient modes of prayer and mission, members likely from more evangelical and conservative background</p>	<p>Contemplative, charismatic, anglican and vineyard, evangelical and evangelical adjacent</p>	<p>Ecumenical/Anglican, Contemplative, liturgical, with a strong emphasis on repentance, grace, and daily faithfulness.</p>	
<p>What feels alive</p>	<p>People are on a journey. Radical dependence on prayer and the Holy Spirit; encouraging, inviting and drawing</p>	<p>Contextualizing, deepening and encouraging spiritual depth, practices and formation as</p>	<p>Modern-day contextualizing of the "Indigenous celtic" channel of Christianity, life formed around daily</p>	

	people into sustained, organized, intense rhythms and culture of prayer	normative in the protestant American church	prayer	
What feels missing	Formation seems heavily and primarily orders around prayer. Despite being an international organization, leaders and members appear overwhelmingly Anglo or white. Seems to have evolved and grown organically since 1999 but seems a little too weighted down by Pete Grieg who's still involved (?). Founder's syndrome looms.	Feels a lot like modern protestant roleplaying at Catholic orders, culturally monolithically white, monocultural leadership	Seeming unengaged in the current moment, maybe suffering from too much contemplation and reflection backwards rather than forward engagement. Seems more of a receiving community than an engaging community.	

	Society of St. Francis https://www.ssfamericas.org/	Community of St. Francis https://www.communitystfrancis.org/	Church of the Sojourners -Been around since the late 1980s https://churchofthesojourners.org/
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			<p>“Church of the Sojourners is an Intentional Christian Community located in San Francisco, California. We believe God intends Christians to live out the pursuit of holiness not just individually but with a people, with a local church.”</p>
Founding vision			<p>“Our mission is to “learn to live together in genuine peace and love, and let others in on it.” “</p>
Core Practices			<p>intense common life as the primary focus of our lives. We along with prayer, worship and discernment. To function well, we need to be deeply family to one another, and see our family life as being partners in the gospel together.</p>
Structure			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -tiered, years-long discernment membership process -tiered membership with clear leadership -shared management of jointly owned San Francisco housing and resources
Economics			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -shared purse, houses, cars, meals, and money

Aesthetics			<p>-”a Christ-centered intentional community.”</p> <p>-intergenerational</p> <p>-actively engaged in local and wider community as well as wider Church</p>
Theological Tone			<p>part of the Anabaptist movement and are a Mennonite church, though only a few of us were raised in that tradition.</p>
What feels alive			
What is missing			

	Mustard	Common	Northumbria	Sojourners		
What are most groups optimizing for?	International community of people organize around, focused seasoned prayer	A protestant order leaning on spiritual direction, disciplines and exploration of neo-monasticism	Ordinary christians seeking to life of daily prayer, and intentional principles and expression of celtic spirituality way of life			
Where do they cluster? (urban, academic, activist?)	Prayer ministers, missionaries, clergy, charismatic evangelism ministries	Clergy, teachers, professors, spiritual directors				
What do they not touch?						