

The “Way” of TiLT

TiLT seeks to be a parallel society existing within the dominant consumer culture of North America, living out very different values. As modern followers of the Jesus Way living amidst attitudes of alienation, scarcity, selfishness and fear, we seek to embody:

A way of life founded in community. Our aim is to live in close relationship to one another, functioning as much as possible as an extended family—observing community practices such as mutual aid, table fellowship, and sharing in work, play, and hardship. We will be respectful of boundaries, join together in common work, and be willing to “agree and disagree in love.”

A way of life marked by service. TiLT members will contribute significant amounts of time to service within the community and to service in the surrounding region. Rather than isolate themselves in a “bubble,” members of TiLT live in close proximity to human and environmental need.

A way of life infused with spiritual disciplines, common worship and seasonal rhythm. Together and alone, our community will seek to implement ancient Judeo-Christian practices such as wilderness sojourn, personal *examen*, shared liturgy, prayer, sacred song, seasonal ritual, fasting, spiritual direction, open table fellowship, and Sabbath rest.

A way of life informed by the 12-step recovery movement. We acknowledge ourselves to be addicts—victims of *affluenza*. Despite our professed values of love and peace and justice, we compulsively make choices that are unfair, unjust, and unhealthy for our world. We need serious help, and cannot do it alone.

A way of life defined by Sabbath Economics. Under God’s “Great Economy,” abundant personal finances are not to be hoarded and protected, but rather are gifts to be used for the common good. Together, in the face of dominant culture obsessed with accumulation, we seek to practice a ‘theology of relinquishment’ that includes community investment, relational tithing, alternatives to health insurance, mutual aid, credit card debt relief, micro-loans, and jubilee redistribution.

A way of life dedicated to watershed discipleship. We will not save a place we do not love; we cannot love a place we do not know. Considering our watershed to be our teacher, corrector and sustainer, we become ecologically literate and practice sustainable re-inhabitory actions as we learn to be citizens of a specific place once again, our lives shaped by the bounty and the healthy limits of our region.

A way of life guided by Anabaptist values of nonviolence and radical reconciliation. TiLT is grounded in the deep “peace church” tradition of Mennonites, Amish, Quakers and others who seek to live discipleship lives of reconciliation, simplicity and justice making. This movement, while imperfect, has for 500 years embodied non-violent alternatives to the coercion, retribution and exploitation that runs rampant through our society. TiLT is supported by Albuquerque Mennonite Church as well as Mountain States Mennonite Conference, a regional Anabaptist organization.

A way of life inspired by the global “Transition Towns” movement. Together we craft resilient, community-reliant lifestyles that are energy-lean, local-focused and time-rich. We construct housing and habits that do not depend upon cheap oil nor the exploitation of people and the environment.

We will not always embody all of these values. As we move forward together, we won’t live any of them very well. We are addicts, after all. Yet in our brokenness we trust in the radical forgiveness that Jesus taught and offered. We walk forward in grace and joy. In our imperfection, we still aspire to

develop a parallel society, being the change we want to see in the world. In our brokenness we still trust Jesus' declaration that "the kingdom is among you," we still dare to believe we might embody a bit of the kingdom of God, and in so doing, we might act like leaven in the loaf, infusing North America with a more abundant and more satisfying way to live.

Looking to reinvent the American way of life? So are we.

Many modern North Americans suffer from affluenza. We do—big time. Despite our professed values of love and peace and justice, we often make choices that are unfair, unjust, and unhealthy for the world. We're addicted to ways of life that hoard too much, work too much, worry too much, control too much, consume too much, attack too much, protect too much, waste too much. We tend to love too little, share too little, feel too little, forgive too little, risk too little, enjoy too little.

Leery of the label "Christian?" So are we.

A lot of appalling behavior and belief has been inflicted upon the world in the name of Christianity. We choose to embrace the tradition anyway. To do so reminds us of our own selves—broken, yet somehow still full of potential and beloved by God. As nonviolent disciples following the Jesus Way, we want to practice a more abundant and grateful way of life. Like other discipleship communities, we aim to establish parallel societies in the shadow of the American Empire, societies that are not governed by dominant attitudes of scarcity, wastefulness, self-centeredness, and fear. We seek to break the chains of *affluenza* and live generously, consciously and joyfully. To paraphrase Gandhi, we seek to be the change we want to see in the world.

"Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." —Saint Francis

Ready to live into a new world together? So are we.

We're actively seeking more founding residents and supporters to make this vision happen. Join us!

Residences & Locations—

TiLT inhabits two locations in Northern New Mexico.

Lama Mountain

Lama Mountain is a rural farm and forest community 15 miles north of Taos. It is a tiny, loosely-affiliated community of quirky, passionate individuals and organizations. Several groups based in Lama engage in the mutual pursuit of sustainable living, healthy human development and bioregional place-based education for youth and adults. Some of these organizations and initiatives include:

- Roots & Wings Community School , a K-8 farm & wilderness public charter school
- Localogy, a non-profit supporting sustainable agriculture and place-based education
- Lama Foundation, a 50-year old intentional community and retreat center
- Sangre de Cristo Youth Ranch, a 700-acre summer camp and working ranch
- Lama Mountain Internship, a hands-on apprenticeship for homesteading in the high desert
- Going Cimarron Wilderness Treks, wilderness treks focusing on adult spiritual formation

TiLT partners with these organizations above, and has an adobe home and a yurt in Lama—complete with apple and plum trees, greenhouses, a community farm and a goat milking co-op. TiLT seeks self-reliant, self-motivated residents with a frontier mindset who desire to engage in this rural, interconnected "bioregional living laboratory" and experiential education center.

Central Taos

The heart of TiLT is a multi-family co-housing complex in central Taos. The residence is a sprawling fixer-upper adobe hacienda constructed by hand over 75 years ago by an amazing character,"Doc" Isaiah Udell. It includes ten rooms, three bathrooms and seven fireplaces. Our co-housing design incorporates private "wings" for individuals and families—including private bedrooms, house

entrances, sitting areas and kitchenettes—that center around a large shared kitchen, dining room, patio and atrium/common room. Built by a master craftsman in the traditional style, its architecture includes massive vigas, thick walls, arched doorways, hardwood floors, beautiful views, intricate woodwork and sacred nichos. The property has been neglected and is in need of rehabilitation, but we are busy painting, plastering, sanding and remodeling, to restore both its beauty and its usefulness. It will be a decade-long project—bring a paintbrush and a screwdriver!

The property includes nearly an acre of open land, zoned to allow up to three more residences as our community grows in people and resources. We're an easy walk from grocery stores, coffee shops, parks, schools, the soccer field, the library and Taos plaza. The site has mature landscaping, good water access, and massive potential. Plans include a permaculture approach to incorporate large urban gardening areas, a food forest, water collection, sustainable construction, workshop and art studio, meditation and meeting spaces, and patio courtyard with outdoor cooking spaces and adobe bread oven,

Balances, Rhythms and Commitments

With TiLT we seek to embody a parallel society while engaging with dominant culture. We strive to strike a balance between individual incomes and pooled resources, personal passions and collective pursuits, private times and common life, solitary vocations and group activities.

We value independent choice in our community, but we also expect members' economic and vocational choices to be open to group reflection and discussion. TiLT members choose to actively discern major life decisions *with* the community. This is similar to the practice of using a "clearness group" for making decisions about career, relationships, major purchases, etc. —a practice borrowed from the Quaker tradition. Ultimately, however, decisions are made by the individuals concerned. We anticipate using a Personalized Discernment Plan—an individualized evaluation tool that will help each of us to become a deeper practitioner of the Way.

Our shared expectations will shift with the rhythms and opportunities of the seasons—planting, harvesting, building, giving, traveling, protesting, re-evaluating and celebrating all have their time. However, some year-round rhythms and expectations of common life will be: four common meals per week; two hours per week of shared projects; two hours per week voluntary service; one life discernment meeting per week; one evening worship per week; monthly payment of rent; monthly season-based liturgies and celebrations.

Becoming a Resident

This is no part-time project. This is a discipleship community looking to reinvent the American way of life. To make this happen together, we ask residents to make a minimum commitment of two years. We want folks who can share well, dream big, work hard, root down, buy in, sing often, and change gracefully. We will work with all members to gain employment and create connections within the Taos community. TiLT needs folks who can pay their own way, initiate their own projects, smile in the face of adversity, give far more than normal and forgive far more than expected. Might you be one of these folks? Visits and work-stays can be arranged for short- or long-term. Individual arrangements will vary based upon personal circumstances. For serious inquiries contact Todd Wynward at toddwynward@gmail.com or Ken Gingerich at kengingerichdesign@gmail.com.