

L'ARCHE NEHALEM MANDATE
May, 2009- April, 2013

“Unity is founded on the covenant of love to which God calls all the community members. This implies welcome and respect for differences. Such unity presupposes that the person with a developmental disability is at the center of community life. This unity is built up over time and through faithfulness. Communities commit themselves to accompany their members (once membership is confirmed) throughout their lives, if this is what those members want.” Charter of the Communities of L’Arche III.2.1

L’Arche Nehalem keeps the core members at the heart of our mission. Listening to their prophetic voices we:

- Ensure that core members have a voice in decision making;
- Anticipate and respond to the changing needs of core members;
- Provide accompaniment for core members;
- Pursue enriching individual and social activities for core members.

Recognizing the unique value of every person and our need for one another, L’Arche Nehalem fosters a sense of belonging and vocation. Led by our core members we:

- Affirm and celebrate each stage of commitment for all members of the community;
- Create a process for clarifying membership that meets the unique needs of L’Arche Nehalem;
- Identify and access necessary resources to sustain the mutual commitment between long term members and the community.

“L’Arche communities are open and welcoming to the world around them. They form an integral part of life in their localities and seek to foster relationships with neighbors and friends.” Charter of the Communities of L’Arche III.4.1

Rooted in the knowledge that we cannot be the solution for all individuals with developmental disabilities, L’Arche Nehalem is called to be a sign of hope. We believe that mutually transforming relationships are at the heart of our identity. Therefore, challenging ourselves to live not merely by example but by actively engaging in our society, we:

- Invite individuals to join us in our mission;
- Initiate and nurture relationships of friendship and solidarity with persons with developmental disabilities, their families, and supporting agencies;
- Build partnerships with churches, civic groups, and advocacy organizations.