

# Ethos of the Quarters Dunedin 2018



## Vision

The vision of the Quarters Initiative is to see students developing relationships of quality and depth, which multiply their impact on the university and lay good foundations in convictions and character for life after graduation.

In a sentence: Lifetime friends, under God, sharing Life.

## Aims

- Establish an interdenominational and multicultural discipleship community
- Learn to live in community and model this to others
- Help each other develop a robust biblical worldview in the midst of a secular academic environment
- Be a place of welcome and outreach

## The Quarters Dunedin

The community at 54-56 Bank Street will be based on a covenant from all involved to live out the vision and aims of the Quarters Initiative. All the residents, including the TSCF staff, will share the following commitments. The following lists are for the purpose of opening each of us to God's work in our lives, and we aim to approach this from a foundation of grace. TSCF will provide support and help the community to be accountable to their covenant.

We will grow *community* (Acts 2:42-47) through:

- Creating & cultivating friendships
- Eating together at least 3 meals a week
- Having regular flat nights together
- Helping each other be excellent in our studies
- Joyfully participate in the obligations of community life (i.e. household chores, hosting guests, prayer, flat night, outings etc)
- Practising good stewardship by leading a simple life and by recycling, and conserving energy and water. We will keep the grounds by maintaining and tidying the veggie garden, and looking after the chickens.
- Being accountable to each other, local TSCF Staff and the TSCF Office. One of the ways this accountability will be expressed is through flat meetings, and these meetings will happen at least once a month.
- Abstaining from the pursuit of romantic relationships with other flat mates
- Helping each other practise taking a Sabbath, and where possible practice taking a Sabbath together

We will grow as *disciples* (Phil. 4:8-9) through growing as a community and through:

- Actively participating in a Christian Fellowship on a regular basis
- Meeting together for spiritual practices a minimum of 3 times a week
- Encouraging each others' spiritual growth
- Intentional conversations over meals
- Hosting speakers for dessert or meals to share with us from their experience and expertise

We will provide a space for *missional activity* through:

- Allowing space for small groups to meet
- Initiating relational/social events (e.g. BBQs, Dialogue dinners)
- Initiating informal hospitality with friends and course mates

### **Honouring Flat Responsibilities, Being Considerate and Dealing with Problems**

We will:

- Keep the common areas and rooms in respectable order at all times (there will be several inspections of the house/rooms and grounds during the year by the Tenant Agency. Only *White Tack* (not blue or Sellotape) are allowed on the walls.)
- Take responsibility for damages and losses of Quarters properties by letting the TSCF office know, and arrange replacement or rectification.

Prohibitions:

- Undesirable and/or illegal materials and substances are strictly prohibited in the house (eg, drugs, pornographic and X-rated material). Non-marital sexual activity in the house is not permitted.
- Abusive behaviour and the lack of consideration for others will not be tolerated.

We will work together and communicate effectively to resolve conflict. Should the need arise for intervention, TSCF's procedures will provide for such situations by:

- Mediating and/or giving a person an oral or written warning
- Ordering the compensation for any loss or damage caused by or arising from the misconduct
- Terminating a resident's tenancy at the Quarters Dunedin - as specified on the Flat Sharing Agreement contract.

**We, the community at Quarters Dunedin will agree to live by the ethos of Quarters Dunedin.**

**We will represent TSCF in giving support to Quarters Dunedin.**

## Notes

There will be an orientation day that it is compulsory for all residents to attend. TSCF will agree the date with the residents no less than two months in advance. The same principle will apply regarding a thanksgiving and reflection day at the end of the academic year.

An independent support group will be appointed each year. Their role will be to offer advice on the pursuit of the aims, to provide a sounding board to the residents as to how well the houses are meeting their aims, and monitor whether TSCF is meeting its commitments to the houses.

“Being accountable to each other” is a practice that needs tighter definition, and this will be explored in more detail as part of the orientation day. For now it is sufficient to note that seeking to live by this ethos will require sacrifice on the part of all residents, but also accountability in order to monitor that as much as is possible the level of sacrifice is shared equally across all residents.

The clause around abstinence from the pursuit of romantic relationships was added after consultation with leaders of other similar Christian communities. The relational dynamics of a home with six or more residents is delicate and complicated. Experience has shown that, despite the best intentions of all involved, a dating relationship within a residential community has a strong enough effect on community life that for the sake of the wider group it is necessary that all residents abstain from dating relationships with other residents in the same house. Should strong feelings develop between two residents then the residents will either have to wait till the end of the year to pursue the relationship, or one of the parties will have to explore exchanging rooms with a resident of a different house in the Quarters, or move out and in consultation with local TSCF representatives locate a new resident for the Quarters.