**Growing Together**

**Love**

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to love one another. In our churches, we love one another by the welcome we offer, whether it is to someone who is new to the community or someone who has been worshipping with us for 60 years. It’s important here to also think about what it means to love ourselves – as beings made in the image of God, perhaps one of our challenges is to consider what that love of ourselves and God within us looks like. (Loving one another also points us to think about missional discipleship as we engage with social action, racial justice, radical hospitality and invitation.)

**What do we do already**?

If a visitor were to walk into our church, what would they see? Often if the people in a place are loving and welcoming, you can either see or experience it. It might be that there are regular invitations to share meals, or spaces reserved in buildings to give people space to talk.

It might be that you have a culture of sharing the whole of life with those around you. Does our church community engage in projects for social action, or have a growing culture for seeking justice?

**What could be?**

Is there a place (such as small groups) that we can explore growing a culture of loving one another and ourselves well? Is there a pattern of hospitality and invitation that we could grow or develop? Do we have people responsible for welcoming in our church? Spend some time thinking together about what that looks like, and visually what people see when they walk into your building. Are there ways we could engage well with local needs, areas of social action, or intentionally grow a culture of racial justice through prayer and practical action?