

# Hineni House Handbook



“What is saving my life now is becoming more fully human, trusting that there is no way to God apart from real life in the real world” Barbara Brown Taylor, *An Altar in the World*

# Table of Contents

## [INTRODUCTION](#)

## [THE PITCH](#)

## [MISSION, GOALS & HISTORY](#)

[Hineni \(hee-NEY-nee\)](#)

[Mission](#)

[Goals of the program](#)

[History](#)

[St. Margaret Cedar Cottage](#)

## [FAQ \(Frequently Asked Questions\)](#)

[Do I have to be a Christian or Anglican to be part of this community?](#)

[Do I have to be involved in St. Margaret's in some way?](#)

[Do I have to take care of finding a job or are placements available for me?](#)

[What does it cost?](#)

[How long is the program?](#)

[When can I apply?](#)

[How is admission decided and when will I find out if I have been accepted?](#)

[What is the minimum size of the Hineni community?](#)

[How much time is involved?](#)

[Who is in charge?](#)

[What do you mean by "rule of life?"](#)

[What happens when there's a conflict?](#)

[Does the Handbook determine exactly what happens in our year?](#)

## [THE BOARD](#)

[Who is on the board?](#)

[What does the board do?](#)

## [RULE OF LIFE](#)

[The Discipline or Practice of Community](#)

[The Discipline or Practice of Simplicity](#)

[The Discipline or Practice of Prayer](#)

[The Discipline or Practice of Submission](#)

[The Discipline or Practice of Study](#)

[The Discipline or Practice of Service](#)

## [A WEEK IN THE LIFE](#)

## [DISCERNMENT](#)

## [RESOURCES](#)

[Director Position Description](#)

[Hineni Application \(2015-2016\)](#)

[Hineni Lifestyle Agreement](#)

[Media Release](#)

[Applicant Reference](#)

[Hineni Bible Study](#)

## INTRODUCTION

This handbook holds all the information surrounding the Hineni program. It has been ordered for the curious enquirer so that you can read it in sequence as it anticipates what you want to know next. We don't want to assume too much. A knowledgeable reader can quickly scan the table of contents and access what they are interested in. The goal is that no matter the question, the answer starts off with, "*Have you checked the handbook?*"

But a handbook is just a handbook: it does not determine exactly how the program looks in some regimented way. Rather it gives a framework, so that the program can be crafted around the unique people and needs of *this* particular community in *this* year. We want it to truly be your program, not just ours. In fact we will incorporate feedback from the year into the Handbook going forward. You will be an important part of how God shapes Hineni in the years ahead.

## THE PITCH

You are a young person, post high school or University/College, and not really sure what to do with the rest of your life. You are either working or going to school or both. You are interested in developing a sense of direction as you anticipate the future. Why not consider 11 months at Hineni? At Hineni you could live in an intentional community with 4 other people asking similar questions, while integrated with the vibrant faith community of St. Margaret's Cedar Cottage in Vancouver, British Columbia.

At Hineni, you will explore and grow in your understanding of who you are in God's world and what you might do in that world as you:

- interact formally and informally with your housemates to facilitate community.
- learn together and be challenged together in community.
- use spiritual direction and counselling resources.
- relate with community mentors.
- serve St. Margaret's together in manageable ways.
- deepen your prayer and worship life, and engage in spiritual practices.
- have fun!

That's the Hineni dream. We want you to learn and enjoy things that you can incorporate into your life in a sustainable way and carry with you for the rest of your life. Interested? Read on.

## MISSION, GOALS & HISTORY

It's important to know where we are headed and where we came from. That's what this section is about. But first of all: what's with this name Hineni?!

### **Hineni (hee-NEY-nee)**

Hineni is a Hebrew word which means here I am or I am here, it is what Moses says when God calls to him from the burning bush, and the word means more than just a physical presence, it reflects a person's readiness to do God's work, to take up whatever task it is that God is calling them to do. We believe this name is perfect for our program which will help young people who choose to live in community explore what it is that God is calling them to be and do in the world.

You'll enjoy doing the Hineni Bible Study in the Resources section!

### **Mission**

"To provide a communal living space for young adults to serve, both in the parish and the broader community, while coming to a deeper personal, spiritual and vocational understanding."

### **Goals of the program**

1. To provide young adults an opportunity to live in intentional Christian community for 11 months.
  - gain an appreciation for living simply
  - strengthen interpersonal skills through group living
  - experience the joys and challenges of committing to living within a rule of life with their co-participants
  - deepen faith through life in community
2. To provide young adults an opportunity to serve the wider community and to learn about different forms of ministry/service in the world.
  - to serve within the context of the parish of St. Margaret's and/or the wider church community
  - to deepen faith through service in the community
3. To go through a process of discernment in terms of their own vocational and spiritual calling.
  - to engage in spiritual direction as a way to reflect on God in their life and how they see themselves being led by God
  - to participate in theological reflection with the group and individually as a way to clarify one's own beliefs and values and to respect the beliefs and values of others
  - to be challenged in one's faith life and to learn to grow

## History

In 2013 Saint Margaret's parish (see below) had the idea of using the rectory (a rectory typically is where the church minister/priest lived) to provide young adults with intentional community living, spiritual and vocational discernment, and a commitment of service to the broader community. This idea captured our imaginations and resonated with our ministry goals. We were excited to find a use for the property that would allow us to harness the many gifts of both our parish and our Diocese and offer an important ministry to a group of people for whom not many programs have traditionally been available.

We have talked to other groups that are currently doing similar programs, especially the long established Episcopal Service Corps in the United States ([www.episcopalservicecorps.org](http://www.episcopalservicecorps.org)) and the newly forming Ascend community in Edmonton ([www.ascendleadershipproject.com](http://www.ascendleadershipproject.com)), and began to dream about how we might be able to make our vision a reality.

In the summer of 2015 we undertook a serious renovation that included re-wiring, re-plumbing, re-painting, re-pretty-much-everything the entire inside of the house: refinishing the hardwood floors; replacing old carpet; installing a new kitchen; renovating two bathrooms; cleaning up the yard and garden and fixing the garage. This will be a really sweet place to live!

## St. Margaret Cedar Cottage

St. Margaret Cedar Cottage ([www.stmargaretscedarcottage.ca](http://www.stmargaretscedarcottage.ca)) is a small, vibrant, and diverse worshipping Anglican community in East Vancouver that actively lives out our mission statement of *Sharing God's Welcome; Food for the Hungry, Life for the Weary*.

At our heart we believe we are called to offer the generous hospitality and welcome that we see lived out in the ministry of Jesus. This commitment to welcome has meant that we are a growing community where many different kinds of people find a home. We are diverse in age, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, abilities and health status. A large proportion of our parishioners are in helping professions (paid and volunteer) and many others in our parish are on the receiving end of these services, but at St. Margaret's we all come together to worship, pray, sing, serve, and be reminded that we are each beloved children of God, called to participate in God's work in the world together.

Don't you just want to ask: What's with the 'cedar cottage' bit?!

## FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

### **Do I have to be a Christian or Anglican to be part of this community?**

We can see how you might get that idea with all that talk of church! The short answer is “no”. St. Margaret’s welcomes all, no matter what they claim to believe or not believe. The slightly longer answer is “No, but you need to be able to fully support the goals of the program and St. Margaret’s and be able to fully participate in the life of the community.” More details can be found in the Resources section below (see the Lifestyle Agreement).

### **Do I have to be involved in St. Margaret’s in some way?**

Yes. They are more than a landlord! Involvement in a reasonable way both individually and as a Hineni group, will be an important part of your experience and growth during the year. Besides, they’re a fun group to be a part of. But then again we’re biased ;-)

### **Do I have to take care of finding a job or are placements available for me?**

Yes, you find your own job, or if going to school, you take care of that as well! Unless you want us to randomly enroll you in some program :-) Unlike other programs which provide placements, Hineni, wants to incorporate what you have already going on in your life. We hope that you can integrate the learning & habits developed at Hineni into the rest of your life.

### **What does it cost?**

\$700/month covers your rent, internet and cable, all programming, spiritual direction, counseling, and 2 retreats a year. Such a deal in Vancouver!

### **How long is the program?**

11 months - September 1 to July 31. This leaves a month free - August - for transition between Hineni cohort groups.

### **When can I apply?**

As soon as you are interested. With just 5 spots, you never know! The application form is in the Resources section. The application window runs from February 1 through May 15. In 2015, our inaugural year, we are accepting applications up until the end of July.

### **How is admission decided and when will I find out if I have been accepted?**

The selection committee is made up of the Director and some members of the Board (see later) They will let you know, one way or the other, by May 15. In 2015, our inaugural year, we will let you know by July 31.

### **What is the minimum size of the Hineni community?**

Three wonderful people like you! The house holds a maximum of 5 people who each will have their own bedroom.

### **How much time is involved?**

It sounds like it could involve a lot of extra commitment. Will it be manageable if I have a full time job or go to school full time? Two answers. The first answer is yes. This is not meant to be a super intense marathon. Otherwise that defeats our stated goal: We want you to learn & enjoy things that you can incorporate into your life in a sustainable way and carry with you for the rest of your life. The second answer is “it depends!” It depends on whether you can actually abide by the Lifestyle Agreement you sign (see Resources section below) For example if you are enrolled as a full time student you might decide that to really benefit from all that Hineni has to offer you need to drop a course (or two!).

### **Who is in charge?**

We know the right answer is God! In more pragmatic terms, there is a director who works with a Board who reports to the Church Committee of St. Margaret's. The director is the person who manages the intake and exit of participants, facilitates the connection with mentors, spiritual directors, leads the 2 retreats during the year, coordinates conflict resolution, and generally has a handle on the heartbeat of the community to make sure it's not just surviving but thriving.

### **What do you mean by “rule of life?”**

Good question. There's a section devoted to just that topic. The program is not a guise to turn you into a monk or nun in a religious order! Rather it is there to open you up to sustainable patterns of behaviour that contribute to a joyful, meaningful life.

### **What happens when there's a conflict?**

Gosh you're being real! It's natural and healthy to have some level of 'conflict' or just disagreement. It's how we handle it that's important. In a nutshell we suggest the following: first follow the instruction of Jesus to talk directly to the person (see Matthew 18:15ff) and see if you



can talk it over and resolve it. Oh but we love to triangulate these things! Beware of doing that; if that doesn't work then try and raise it in one of your community meetings; in all this be in dialogue with the director. That's one of the things they are there for.

### **Does the Handbook determine exactly what happens in our year?**

Yes and no! Yes, in the sense that it gives the framework for what happens. No, in the sense that this framework will be crafted by the director and your group to arrive at a form/shape that has its own unique signature. It has to work for the people God sends us.

## **THE BOARD**

The board exists to ensure the health, success and sustainability of Hineni.

### **Who is on the board?**

The board is made up of a small number of people that do more than just meet together once in a while! They are engaged in the life of Hineni as their time and giftings allow. Currently the Board is not a freestanding society, but reports to the Church Committee of St. Margaret Cedar Cottage.

### **What does the board do?**

Their roles include:

- regular prayer in support of the Hineni project.
- being a supportive, consultative and reference body for the Director.
- all aspects related to personnel engaged in the operation of Hineni. That currently consists of the part time Director. In general terms the Board functions in a governance capacity and the Director in an operational capacity.
- assisting the Director connect participants with Mentors. The goal is that community Mentors will regularly offer workshops for the participants giving participants the opportunity to interact with a variety of mentors.
- serving as an avenue of appeal for participants.
- ensuring that the vision of Hineni is clear and enough resources (personnel and financial) are allocated and that they are efficiently used so as to implement the vision.
- maintaining a clear channel of communication with St. Margaret's. This is achieved by having the priest/minister at St. Margaret's on the board.
- marketing the program in their normal spheres of influence. e.g. talking about it to groups and alerting possible participants to this opportunity.

- being an advocate for Hineni with the diocese and leveraging all channels of effective communication that are available. e.g. submitting articles in local publications of the diocese.

## **RULE OF LIFE**

You didn't sign up to become a monk or nun! We know that. Although there's nothing wrong with being a monk or nun! However for thousands of years communities have adopted a way of being together. That is what we mean by rule of life. In Hineni, together with your director, your cohort will establish a workable rule of life, that is sustainable and life enhancing. We will talk about this using the old language of Spiritual Disciplines or Practices. A discipline is simply something you choose to do to put you in a position where God can interact with you and grow you. We actually are more familiar with disciplines than we think. For example the discipline or practice of dental flossing, puts us in a place where we can seek good dental health. For some the discipline or practice of yoga puts us in a position where we can focus on our physical and spiritual health. You get the idea.

Here are some of the disciplines or practices that might be involved. Remember, your participant cohort will craft these to fit your lives and your schedules with the goal that your spiritual life and discernment is enriched, and that you take away some disciplines that are sustainable in your post-Hineni life.

### **The Discipline or Practice of Community**

This is our first goal: to live in intentional community. While the word "community" is fashionable, the deep thought is that community is grounded in the very being of God: God is community. Before anything ever was created, there was community. The wisdom traditions all recognize that one of key barriers to growth is that we are so self absorbed - it's all about 'my this' and 'my that', even 'my spiritual growth.' And there's nothing like being in community to make this very clear to us!

We will practice Community in some very concrete ways such as:

- keeping house together: menu planning; shopping; cooking; eating; cleaning etc. Ideally these tasks can be shared so that each participant can serve the others as they take their turn.
- serving together in some way in the life of St Margaret.
- going on two retreats together.
- eating together; participating in our main weekly community meal & gathering time together.

### **The Discipline or Practice of Simplicity**

As with all disciplines, Simplicity is fundamentally about freedom. By definition the limitations of space and time will keep your life simple. Simplicity is an inward reality that has an outward expression. Richard Foster in *Celebration of Discipline* mentions a number of outward expressions that include:

- Develop a deeper appreciation for creation.
- Obey Jesus' instructions about plain, honest speech. Let your "yes" mean "yes" and your "no" mean "no" (Matthew 5:37).
- Buy things for their usefulness rather than their status.
- Reject anything that is producing an addiction in you.
- Develop a habit of giving things away.
- Refuse to be propagandized by the custodians of modern gadgetry. (The book was first published in 1978!)
- Learn to enjoy things without owning them.
- Reject anything that will breed the oppression of others.
- Shun whatever would distract you from your main goal.

These will be used as a framework for you to consider/evaluate, from time to time during the course of your year together, both from a communal and individual point of view.

## The Discipline or Practice of Prayer

We hope that you will grow in your practice and understanding of prayer. To pray is to be open to God and to cultivate a posture of listening to God. You will practice this in two main ways:

- Communal prayer. With the director you will figure out how this can work best for you. For example, you might decide to end your weekly community meal by praying together. This can be as simple as saying a prayer together (e.g. the Lord's Prayer) when you end, to praying into the events of your coming week. Experiment with what works.
- Individual prayer. The director is available to help. For example, a simple daily discipline is to use the *Examen* ([www.ignationspirituality.com](http://www.ignationspirituality.com))

## The Discipline or Practice of Submission

While we might not like the word submit, there is great freedom here. Think of submission as freedom from always having to get our own way or freedom from always having to do things all on our own. Hineni makes this practice real in these relationships:

- Living in Community. Living in community puts a sharp edge on this idea of submission: it's hard to juggle what's best for the other person and what's best for ourselves!
- Spiritual direction. All participants will be linked with a spiritual director.
- Counselling. All participants can make use of available counselling resources.

- Mentorship. All participants will have the opportunity to choose appropriate mentors. Mentors from the wider community will participate in the life of the Hineni community offering regular workshops.

## The Discipline or Practice of Study

Jesus says in John 8:32 “*You will know the truth and the truth will make you free.*” But without a knowledge of the truth, we will not be free. Things that can be done in this area include:

- choosing to individually read, study and reflect on the assigned Lectionary readings that are followed by St. Margaret’s.
- working through some books together as a group. The director will provide a small set of books for the community to choose from. Think of it as a book club! Some appropriate examples include:
  - *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor
  - *The Gifts of Imperfection* by Brenne Brown

## The Discipline or Practice of Service

Service is the primary way to cultivate the freedom of humility in our lives. The main avenue for this practice will be serving in some way the community of St. Margaret. This could take many forms such as:

- regular attendance at the weekly worship services.
- participating in some way in these services. e.g. reading Scripture; greeting; preparing and hosting the after service coffee time.
- participating in some way in some church/neighbourhood program.

There’s a lot more that can be said in this area but we hope you get the idea behind this talk about a ‘rule of life’.

## A WEEK IN THE LIFE

So what would a typical week look like? You’re working or studying in your life. But then there’s your Hineni life. Here’s a fictitious “week in the life” of someone like yourself.

DAY	STUFF GOING ON
Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● no work shift today - phew</li> <li>● simply attended St Margaret’s today. Next week though we have to plan our ‘serving coffee after church’ gig. We should talk about that on community night.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• this week I am going to continue doing the “Examen”. I find it is becoming a useful habit/discipline.</li> </ul>
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “working 9 to 5”</li> <li>• I am scheduled to cook dinner tonight for 5 of us, although Sam is working late so we’ll save dins for him.</li> <li>• aim to have dinner ready by 7pm. We’ll see!</li> </ul>
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “working 9 to 5” again</li> <li>• I’ll try and finish my chapter on the commute to work so that I am ready to participate in our community night tomorrow.</li> </ul>
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “working 9 to 5” Wow - three shifts in a row - sweet</li> <li>• community dinner tonight followed by community meeting (we tend to check in with two questions: (1) What is working well that we can be thankful for? (2) What could work better?)</li> <li>• we need to plan our “coffee/snack serving time” for this coming Sunday</li> <li>• our director is leading the short book club study on the chapter we’ve all read. Right?!</li> <li>• by the time this is over it’s close to bed time</li> </ul>
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no shift today.</li> <li>• going for a bike ride and will take a picnic lunch.</li> <li>• will do my chore for the week: cleaning the main bathroom - yeah.</li> <li>• hopefully have my weekly check in with the director. Might just be a phone call this week.</li> </ul>
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “working 9 to 5”</li> <li>• a bunch of us thought we’d treat ourselves and go out together</li> </ul>
Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• meeting with my spiritual director over breakfast</li> <li>• I am part of the shopping team. Hopefully the shopping list is ready so we can get this done early.</li> <li>• “working 5pm to 12pm”</li> <li>• must remember to tell my work that I can’t work those shifts on our first weekend retreat coming up.</li> </ul>

## DISCERNMENT

You’re probably wondering how this piece of the Mission statement - “coming to a personal, spiritual and vocational understanding” - will work out for you in Hineni? If not, just skip this section! While we can’t make any promises that you will have a “kapow!” or “burning bush”

experience like Moses, we can say we have thought intentionally about having a lot of the pieces in that discernment puzzle available for you. Things like:

- your interaction with your housemates around topics of discernment and what you feel God drawing you towards. It's amazing how God uses others in our lives.
- your personal opportunity for reflection and working with a rule of life.
- the opportunity to be on retreat together.
- the relationship with a spiritual director.
- opportunities to engage with community mentors.
- the possibility of personal counselling.
- the chance to learn together.

As we orient ourselves with opportunities and practices like these, and as we pay attention, we will find parts of the discernment puzzle coming together, often in ways that surprise us.

## RESOURCES

This section contains a list of resources and forms related to the smooth functioning of Hineni. Each resource starts on a new page. So if you want to print just one of the resources, you just need to print the relevant pages.

## Director Position Description

**JOB TITLE:** Community Director (part time)

**OBJECTIVE & MISSION:** Hineni, a Hebrew word which means here I am or I am here, exists to provide a financially sustainable program that offers a communal living environment to five young adults, who are supported by a program director, community mentors and the parish of St. Margaret's in engaging in spiritual and vocational discernment. The Mission statement is: *"To provide a communal living space for young adults to serve, both in the parish and the broader community, while coming to a deeper personal spiritual and vocational understanding."*

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** The goal is to ensure that Hineni is a normal, sustainable part of the parish.

- Administrative
  - Oversee the systems in place for this program. This includes maintaining the website and making sure the Handbook is up to date and reflects reality. Maintain the Hineni calendar of events.
  - Manage the budget and participate in parish budgeting process. Apply for relevant grants.
  - Meet regularly with the parish leadership in place for Hineni (the Board) and ensure that diocesan links are established and maintained.
  - Assist in linking the participants into a regular, sustainable part of the worship and ministry of St. Margarets. e.g. Hineni group serve the Sunday coffee and treats once a month; read Scripture and use their gifts in the life of the worshipping community.
  - Coordinating community mentors.
  - Cultivate a supportive working relationship with the Board.
- Pastoral
  - Ensure each participant has appropriate linkage to counselling and spiritual direction resources.
  - Weekly check in with each participant individually.
  - Be available to community members on their initiative. Be the first point of contact for crisis events. e.g. conflict, abrupt departures, inappropriate intimacy
  - Weekly check in with the community over a community meal

- Maintain and develop the life cycle processes surrounding intake & exit. Lead the intake and exit processes with others as appropriate.
- Personal
  - To practice the ministry of presence in manageable ways in the rectory house.
  - The develop genuine connection with each participant.
  - Establish a productive relationship with the priest at St. Margaret's.
- Educational
  - plan, develop and participate in scheduled retreats
  - develop and lead communal study time together. e.g. a simple core curriculum of book studies. (maybe over the weekly community meal?)

**SKILLS:** These include

- high emotional intelligence and interpersonal skills.
- administrative effectiveness.
- theologically literate through some combination of educational and life experience
- fully supportive of the mission of St. Margaret's as reflected in its ethos and values.
- personal intentional community experience
- familiarity with other groups that are currently doing similar programs, especially the long established Episcopal Service Corps in the United States and the newly forming Ascend community in Edmonton.
- technical ability to manage any social media that is leveraged in support of Hineni; support the [hinenihouse@gmail.com](mailto:hinenihouse@gmail.com) email account and associated Google Docs and Calendar; maintain the Google calendar which is linked to in the website, so that there is a single source of truth about Hineni scheduling; familiarity with Wordpress.



## **Hineni Application (2015-2016)**

Our mission is “To provide a communal living space for young adults to serve, both in the parish and the broader community, while coming to a deeper personal spiritual and vocational understanding.” Therefore a careful assessment of each applicant’s suitability is critical to the application process. If you have questions or concerns regarding any part of the application please talk to us!

On acceptance, you will need to get a Criminal Records Check, or equivalent, in your province of residency. For example, if you are from BC, Canada you can find out more information [here](#). You will be reimbursed for this expense.

Your privacy and confidentiality is very important to us. Only the admissions administrative team will have access to this information.

### **Instructions**

- Please answer, in detail, all of the questions as they pertain to you.
- You can send it to us electronically or via regular mail.
- When answering these questions be yourself. These questions simply help us learn more about you.

### **Contact Information**

1. Name:
2. Date of Birth:
3. Current Age:
4. Current Citizenship Status:
5. Gender Designation:
6. Current Address:
7. Email:
8. Telephone:
9. Cell:

10. Do you have health insurance?  N /  Y Details:

11. Do you have a driver's licence?  Y /  N Class:

### **Languages**

1. Is English your primary (1st) language?  Y/  N

2. If no, what is your primary language? :

3. Other than the above, do you speak any other languages competently?:

### **Education**

1. What is the highest level of Education that you have completed?

2. If accepted, are you planning to be working/going to school? (please circle)

### **Work Experience**

Please give us some details of the last two work experiences you had.

1. Place of Work:

2. Name of Supervisor:

3. Dates of Employment:

4. Position and one sentence description:

5. Phone Number:

6. Number of Years:

1. Place of Work:

2. Name of Supervisor:

3. Dates of Employment:

4. Position and one sentence description:

5. Phone Number:

6. Number of Years:

### **Volunteer Experience**

Please give us some details of the last two volunteer experiences you had.

1. Place of Work:

2. Name of Supervisor:

3. Dates of Employment:

4. Position and one sentence description:

5. Phone Number:

6. Number of Years:

1. Place of Work:

2. Name of Supervisor:

3. Dates of Employment:

4. Position and one sentence description:

5. Phone Number:

6. Number of Years:

### **Mental and Physical Health**

The nature of the community life and project activities, especially when taken together with work or school demands, may be especially challenging for those with certain mental and physical conditions. Please disclose all relevant information. We will hold all health information confidential, available only to the interviewing committee and Community Director. Please fill out all that applies to you and indicate N/A otherwise.

1. Are you seeing a doctor or specialist on a regular basis?  Y/  N

If yes, explain how often and for what purpose.

2. Do you have any allergies?  Y/  N

If yes, please list them:

3. Have you been hospitalized within the last 12 months?  Y/  N

If yes, please explain:

4. Do you have any dietary restrictions or preferences?  Y/  N

If yes, please explain:

5. Rate your general health in the last 12 months on a scale of 1-10 (1 is poor. 10 is peachy).

\_\_\_\_\_

Please explain:

6. Have you suffered with any chronic conditions or illnesses?  Y/  N

If yes, please explain frequency and severity.

7. Are there any psychological issues which would have an impact on your ability to be part of Hineni?  Y/  N

If yes, please provide some detail.

8. Is there anything regarding your physical or mental health that we may need to know, which has not been asked?  Y/  N

If so, please elaborate:

## Spiritual Formation

1. In my childhood, my family and I:

- Regularly attended religious services. Details: \_\_\_\_\_
- Sometimes
- Not at all

2. At present, I would describe myself as:

- A practicing Christian. Denomination: \_\_\_\_\_
- Christian, but not practicing
- Not Christian. Write a sentence or two in the space below that would describe your spiritual/religious orientation.

3. Describe your faith/spiritual journey including any practices that have become an important part of your life.

4. Do you have any concerns about being part of a short term intentional Christian faith community? If so, please elaborate.

## Personal Goals

1. In a short paragraph (about 250 words) tell us why you are attracted to Hineni? Attach a separate page if necessary.

2. How do you hope to grow over the course of your 11 months at Hineni?

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**AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURE**

By signing my name in the space provided, I certify that all the information I have provided in this application form is complete, accurate and truthful to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the information I have given is available only to the Hineni administrative team. I give permission to the administrative team to discuss all information that has been and will be given in my application materials.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (printed) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Application Checklist**

- I have filled out the application in full including the above "Authorization Signature"
- Upon acceptance, I am willing to get a Criminal Records Check or equivalent
- I have distributed reference forms to 2-3 referrals who will mail or email their completed forms to [hinenihouse@gmail.com](mailto:hinenihouse@gmail.com).
- I have signed the attached Lifestyle Agreement
- I have signed the attached Media Release Form

## Hineni Lifestyle Agreement

I understand that my admission to Hineni will require my commitment to uphold certain standards of conduct during my time in the program.

The standards of conduct to which I commit myself include the following:

- I commit to active engagement in the life of the community and to make every effort to attend all scheduled community meals, events and meetings, retreats etc.
- I commit to developing a more detailed Rule of Life together in partnership with the director and other participants, and submit myself to it while living in community with them, including but not limited to a common program of study, shared meals, shopping and cleaning rotation, service in St. Margaret's, etc.
- I commit to seeking reconciliation when conflict arises.
- I commit to being fully supportive of the mission of St. Margaret's as reflected in its ethos and values and do nothing that would detract from that.
- I commit to honor the personal boundaries of all the participants.
- I commit to not being inappropriately intimate (emotionally or physically) with other participants to the detriment of the health of the Hineni community, and will immediately inform the director of concerns in this area, whether about myself or other Hineni participants.
- I commit to refraining from alcohol abuse illegal drug use.
- I will abide by the Screening in Faith and Sexual Misconduct policy of the diocese (see <http://vancouver.anglican.ca/resources/hr-screening-in-faith> for details)

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### AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURE

By signing my name in the space provided, I commit myself to this lifestyle agreement:

Signature:

Date:

## Media Release

I, (print name) \_\_\_\_\_, hereby grant permission to the St. Margaret Cedar Cottage, its employees or representatives, to take and use (check all that apply):

- photographs/digital images
- video
- audio recording or quoted remarks
- educational or other PowerPoint or presentation materials

of me or prepared by me for use in promotional or educational materials. These materials might include printed or electronic publications, Web sites or other electronic communications.

I further agree that my name and identity may be revealed in descriptive text or commentary in connection with the image(s).

I authorize the use of these materials indefinitely without compensation to me. All negatives, positives, prints, digital reproductions and video and audio recordings shall be the property of St. Margaret Cedar Cottage

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### AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURE

By signing my name in the space provided, I give my consent to this media release:

Signature:

Date:



## **Applicant Reference**

The applicant below, has applied to be part of the Hineni program which is operated under the oversight of St. Margaret Cedar Cottage, Vancouver, BC, CANADA. The mission of this program is: "To provide a communal living space for young adults to serve, both in the parish and the broader community, while coming to a deeper personal spiritual and vocational understanding." It is an 11 month intentional community. More information is available at [www.hinenihouse.org](http://www.hinenihouse.org).

A careful assessment of this applicant's strengths and weaknesses is critical to the application process and the success of Hineni.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this letter of reference. All information supplied by you in this reference questionnaire will be held confidential, accessible only to the interviewing committee and director.

You may email your form to [hinenihouse@gmail.com](mailto:hinenihouse@gmail.com) OR mail a hardcopy to Hineni House, c/o Rev. Heidi Brear, St. Margaret Cedar Cottage, 1530 22nd Ave E, Vancouver, BC V5N 2P1.

## **Applicant Information**

Full Name:

Current Address:

Email:

Home Phone:

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**THE FOLLOWING IS TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REFEREE ONLY:**

## **Referee Information**

Full Name:

Date:

Mailing Address:

Email:

Home Phone:

Work Phone:

If needed, I may be contacted at Home Work Either

1. What is your relationship to the applicant? (Please check all appropriate)

- Employer / Supervisor       Pastor / Parish priest  
 Teacher / Professor       Youth Minister  
 Mentor       Other

2. How long have you known the applicant?

3. How well do you know the applicant?

- Very well     Well       Not well     Very little

4. What are the situations/settings under which you have had opportunity to work with, supervise or observe the applicant?

5. Using the scale below, please rate (1 - 4) the applicant in the following:

4=Frequently 3=Sometimes 2=Rarely 1=Never

Area	Rating
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The applicant possesses the ability to follow through with responsibilities and commitments.	
The applicant possesses the ability to listen and respect opinions contrary to his or her own.	
The applicant possesses a cooperative, friendly, courteous disposition.	
The applicant possesses the respect of his or her peers.	

6. Please elaborate on one of the applicant's strengths and one area for improvement

7. From what you know about Hineni, how could you see this applicant contributing to the life of this intentional community?

8. From what you know about Hineni, do you have any concerns?

9. Feel free to add any further comments that you think would be helpful for us.

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**AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURE**

By signing my name in the space provided, I certify that all the information in this reference form is truthful to the best of my knowledge:

Signature:

Date:

## Hineni Bible Study

Exodus 3:1-6 contains the response of Moses from which the word Hineni comes from. Hineni is a Hebrew word which means here I am or I am here, it is what Moses says when God calls to him from the burning bush, and the word means more than just a physical presence, it reflects a person's readiness to do God's work, to take up whatever task it is that God is calling them to do.

Doing this Bible study together is a good way of grounding ourselves in what Hineni is about. The leader guides the group through the study.

**HOOK** (Getting ourselves into a space which prepares us to hear the Bible and study it. Take 5 minutes or so to do this)

- (1) Share a recent event that "got your attention" in a dramatic kind of way.
- (2) When was the last time you heard someone using the phrase "burning bush" in its Biblical sense?

**BOOK** (Reading the Scripture. Take 3 to 5 minutes.)

Moses was the key leader that led the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt. Though he was an Israelite by birth he was adopted by Pharaoh's (Pharaoh was in effect the Egyptian King) daughter. After killing an Egyptian slave driver who was beating an Israelite slave (see Exodus 2:11-15), Moses fled to Midian - where he married and became a shepherd. Have someone in the group read Exodus 3:1-6 (NRSV).

*3 Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup> Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." <sup>4</sup> When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup> Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup> He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.*

**LOOK** (Asking observation questions such as "What does it say?" and interpretation questions such as "What does it mean?" of the Scripture text. Spend about 20 - 25 minutes using the questions as a framework to wrestle with the text and also let the text wrestle with you)

- (1) As a shepherd Moses would not be unfamiliar with fires. What was different about this fire (v. 2, 3) What does this tell us about how God gets our attention?
- (2) What is significant about the fact that God calls Moses by name? What kind of relationship is God initiating with him?

- (3) Is there anything that surprises you about Moses' "here I am" response? What other responses might you have expected Moses' to have if you were in Moses' sandals!?
- (4) What does God underline in v. 5? Why? What are some modern equivalents to taking off our sandals that express this truth?
- (5) Why does God begin with the the declaration of v.6? What reminders would that trigger for an Israelite? How is Moses' response described? What kind of "afraid-ness" is it?
- (6) This all happens before God gives Moses a major job to lead the Israelites out of slavery and suffering. (v. 7ff This is not part of this study but is well worth reading) In what way do you think what happens here in v. 1 - 6, is very important groundwork? Before we "do" something for God, what preparation is foundational?

**TOOK** (Application. So what?! So, what does this mean for me, for us? Anything to learn, do, change in our lives? Give yourselves 5- 10 minutes to respond as you feel appropriate)

- (1) Think of the senses God used to get Moses' attention. Remind yourself that God used the familiar that was also unfamiliar to grab Moses' attention as well. What have you learned about yourself in terms of how God grabs your attention? How would you fill in the blank in the phrase: "In my life so far I find that God usually uses \_\_\_\_\_ to grab my attention"
- (2) Have there been, or are you in the middle of, a "burning bush" experience? Share something of that, as you feel comfortable.
- (3) The highly personal reality of God who both knows Moses and his people is striking. If you were to rate your sense of being personally known by God on a scale of 1 (very distant) to 10 (very real and close), what number would you choose? What (a practice or activity) gives you a genuine sense of connection to God/the divine?