

The 10 marks of Nijkleaster

I.

Nijkleaster feels connected with the whole inhabited world (oikoumene), but is locally connected with Jorwert and the surrounding villages. Nijkleaster commits itself explicitly to the use of the language, culture and history of the Frisian context.

II.

Nijkleaster feels connected with the churches of the whole inhabited world, but is locally connected with the Protestant parishes in the surroundings.

III.

Nijkleaster fosters, in addition to the 'parish-model' of the local parish, a monastic model with individuals offering different levels of commitment.

IV.

Nijkleaster tries to create an oasis of peace and stillness in a world of noise, unrest and brokenness. A sanctuary in the middle of the countryside, in harmony with nature. A nursery for practising a life of 'silence, reflection and connection'. And with the conviction and wonder that life has been given to us freely and compassionately.

V.

Nijkleaster practices living in community in the midst of a social context characterised by immoderate individualisation and independence. We are looking for a path towards simple, communal life, in faith, hope and love.

VI.

Nijkleaster cherishes hospitality, one of the basic features of being a church and of monastic life. Hospitality will be offered to guests for short or longer periods of time.

VII.

Nijkleaster aims to be a community united in its diversity. The body of Christ has many parts, which means, for instance, that there is space for men and women, singles and families, 'black' and 'white', gay and straight, Frisians and non-Frisians.

VIII.

Nijkleaster actively pursues justice, peace and the integrity of creation. In its own context, this means a commitment to sustainability, the local economy and fair trade.

IX.

Nijkleaster seeks to cooperate with all people of good intention. Although Nijkleaster is rooted in the Protestant tradition, we also want to join with and learn from other traditions, religious and non-religious. We cherish the ecumenical movement and seek interfaith dialogue. We seek to connect with all who think in terms of humour and openness, compassion and goodness, solidarity and sustainability.

X.

Nijkleaster is committed to a disciplined, contemplative life. For our community and its individuals, life is about growing in the way of Jesus Christ. This implies daily dedication to communal services and to individual time for quiet, prayer, meditation, study or reading the Bible.