

# Intentional community

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An **intentional community** is a planned [residential community](#) designed to promote a much higher degree of [social interaction](#) than other communities. The members of an intentional community typically hold a common [social](#), [political](#) or [spiritual](#) vision. They also share responsibilities and resources. Intentional communities include [cohousing](#), residential [land trusts](#), [ecovillages](#), [communes](#), [kibbutzim](#), [ashrams](#), and [housing cooperatives](#). Typically, new members of an intentional community are selected by the community's existing membership, rather than by real-estate agents or land owners (if the land is not owned by the community).

It is important to note that in the context of *intentional communities* the above terms have different meanings compared to the legal forms of real estate ownership that may have the same name. For example the members of a [cohousing](#) intentional community may own their homes by owning shares in a housing cooperative.

The purposes of intentional communities vary. They may include sharing resources, creating family-oriented neighborhoods and living ecologically [sustainable](#) lifestyles ([ecovillages](#)). Some communities are secular; others have a spiritual basis. Commonly there is a focus on [egalitarian](#) values. Other themes are [voluntary simplicity](#), interpersonal growth and self-reliance. Some communities provide services to disadvantaged populations, for example, war refugees, the homeless, or people with [developmental disabilities](#). Some communities operate learning or health centers.

Many communities have different types or levels of membership. Typically, intentional communities have a selection process which starts with someone interested in the community coming for a visit. Often prospective community members are interviewed by a selection committee of the community or in some cases by the everyone in the community. Many communities have a "provisional membership" period. After a visitor has been accepted a new member is "provisional" until they have stayed for some period (often 6 months or a year) and then the community re-evaluates their membership. Generally, after the provisional member has been accepted they become a full member. In many communities the voting privileges and/or community benefits for provisional members are less than those for full members.

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Christian intentional communities are usually composed of those wanting to emulate the practices of the earliest believers. Using "[The Acts of the Apostles](#)" in the [Bible](#) (and, often, the "[Sermon on the Mount](#)") as a model, members of these communities strive for a practical outworking of their individual faith in a corporate context. (See links below.)

This section is quoted from this link on January 18, 2007. There is also a listing of intentional communities through the US at this location.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intentional\\_communities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intentional_communities)