

# Benedict Option Groups

## List of Groups found in the book

This is a list of most of the communities Rod Dreher mentions. I will add a few more as this site develops, and I have mentioned a few that he does not. While I don't support everything the groups stand for, I believe they can each act as a model and inspiration in their own way. I pray that they each inspire change.

### ***Alleluia Community*** of charismatic Protestants and Catholics -- Rachel and Paul Balducci

Their Facebook page says: The Alleluia Community consists of families and singles all living in close proximity to one another with the same common goal: helping each other grow closer to Christ. Alleluia isn't a church, but a community of Protestant and Catholics focusing, not on our differences, but on what we have in common, a goal to grow closer to Christ and share Jesus with others.

<http://www.yeslord.com/>

The Covenant includes the following: We commit ourselves fully subordinate to our primary covenants to marriage, celibacy and the church, as brothers and sisters in the Lord, entrusting our lives to Him and to each other in Him. We promise to build up, exhort, admonish and listen to one another; to be quick to forgive and to ask forgiveness; to assist each other in seeking His perfect will in all things.

In His joy and peace, therefore, we yield our lives to Jesus; everything past, present and future and we agree to:

1. Love one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.
2. Be faithful to our commitments to community prayer, fellowship and service, seeking always the vision and the growth to which the Spirit is calling us.
3. Accept responsibility for community order.
4. Foster the growth of the community by accepting responsibility for a program of Christian initiation and formation in community life.
5. Recognize the headship of the coordinators and agree to obey, correct, and pray for them.
6. Accept our financial responsibility to the community.
7. Be held to this covenant and to hold one another to it.

**Hyattsville Catholic Community** – some in St. Jerome Parish, Chris Currie and wife, the members aid each other in many ways

An Article on the New and Growing Community:

<https://www.hyattsvillewire.com/2014/04/09/hyattsvilles-catholic-community-gets-noticed/>

St. Jerome Parish's page on their community: <http://www.stjeromes.org/community>

**Tipi Loschi (*The Usual Suspects*)** – Italy – by Marco Sermarini, they administer a local school as well as 3 co-ops, inspired by Benedictines, help each other in many ways,

A long and personal article by Rod Dreher about a visit with this group:

<http://www.theamericanconservative.com/dreher/so-italy/>

Website in Italian: <http://www.tipiloschi.com/>

**Iona Institute** (NOT in book): <http://www.ionainstitute.ie/>

**Eighth Day Institute (EDI)** – by Erin Doom – ecumenical bookstore and educational center, have various events, pray together, discuss, debate, Hall of Men, Sisters of Sophia

--The Mission of Eighth Day Institute can be summed up in eight words: "the renewal of culture through faith and learning."

--Two great Russians express the same idea succinctly. According to Dostoevsky, "Everybody wants to change the world, but nobody thinks about changing himself." Or, in the words of St. Seraphim of Sarov, "Acquire the Holy Spirit and thousands around you will be saved."

<http://www.eighthdayinstitute.org/>

**Leah Sargeant and husband Alexi** – organize Benedict Option communities

### Schooling

**Martin Cothran** – A leader in the Classical Christian School movement, which combines learning with virtue.

An interview with Martin Cothran on Classical Education:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EOL9eiSBJkM>

A Brief Overview of Curriculum and Trivium:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3B0V4nk6nmQ>

Martin Cothran on Common Core: <https://www.circeinstitute.org/blog/words-wisdom-martin-cothran-common-core>

Theologian **Carl Trueman** – H tried to organize local Christians to oppose transgenderism in public schools

**CiRCE Institute** – trains teachers in classical education

“CiRCE” is an acronym for “Center for Independent Research on Classical Education.”

A secondary acronym is "Consulting and Integrated Resources for Classical Educators."

#### **Our Vocation**

The CiRCE Institute is called to promote, model, and support classical education in the school, within itself, and in the home.

<https://www.circeinstitute.org/>

**Classical Christian Homeschooling**, uses bible, western civilization and life of Church

One Classical Christian Homeschooling site: <http://www.classical-homeschooling.org/contents.html>

“Classical Education returns to the time-honored educational theory of the past. The classical method was the only educational theory in practice in Western Civilization for over two millennia...Beginning in Classical Greece and Rome, and continuing through the Puritan and Colonial eras of our nation, children that were fortunate enough to receive an education received a classical one. Classical Education produced Archimedes, St. Paul, St. Patrick and Columba, Dante, Leonardo da Vinci, Galileo, Sir Isaac Newton, Christopher Columbus, Shakespeare, and our own great George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams.”

**Sequitur Classical Academy**, small-o orthodox interdenominational academy

<http://www.sequiturbr.com/>

“There is a growing educational need in our day to recover what has been lost in our Western tradition, ever more absent from the common memory of American citizens. There is also an ever-present need for Christians to wisely, intelligently, courageously, creatively, and graciously engage our city and neighbors with Christian truth. It is Sequitur’s hope that we can, by the grace of God, accomplish these two goals in our students.”

**Classical School** attached to *St. Jerome Parish*

<http://www.stjeromes.org/education/parish-school>

**Newman Centers** – College ministry – St. John’s at University of Illinois, pioneered communal living on public campuses, environment led by full-time priests and pastoral staff

St. John’s Newman Center: <http://www.sjcnc.org/>

Living at the St. John’s Newman community: <http://www.sjcnc.org/housing/newman-hall-life/>

Newman Center Locations: <http://www.newmanconnection.com/locations/>

**Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS)** – has chapters in over 100 universities, does prayer, study and worship, often in small groups, prepares students for evangelization

<http://www.focus.org/>

“FOCUS is a Catholic collegiate outreach whose mission is to share the hope and joy of the gospel with college and university students. Trained in Church teaching, prayer, sacred Scripture, evangelization and discipleship, FOCUS missionaries encounter students in friendship where they are, inviting them into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and accompanying them as they pursue lives of virtue and excellence.”

**Center for Christian Study** – was previously Christian Study Center movement – Evangelical, began in 1968 at University of Virginia, is hq for various parachurch ministries, does Bible study, lectures, small groups

<https://www.studycenter.net/>

“The vision of the Center for Christian Study is to serve Jesus Christ by fostering the serious consideration in the university environment of a biblical worldview, and by encouraging and facilitating wise discussion of the Truth in light of the challenges of contemporary culture.”

**Chancellor** – Sam Speers and Jed Metge – A male undergraduate intentional community, they room together in spirit of discipleship and mutual support in living out high moral standards. Their purpose includes evangelizing the broader UVA community. The group developed a house RULE, morning and evening prayer, mutual confession of sins, theological conversation and study, and various rules to help with godly living

<http://www.chancellor.haus/>

MISSION: To grow together as a community of Christian men through fellowship, discipleship, and accountability; to be a blessing to our neighbors, including the Center for Christian Study and Chancellor St. residents; and to be a community-building resource for the entire IV chapter.

Standards at Chancellor:

This is an intentional community. This means:

- We hold each other to a high standard of behavior and spiritual discipline as leaders and role models in the Christian community. We strive to be “above reproach” (1 Tim 3), to be “united in mind and thought” (1 Cor 1:10), and to “live such good lives among the Gentiles that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God” (1 Pet 2:12).
- Residents are committed followers of Christ seeking to grow in spiritual maturity, and have committed to involvement in one of the chapters of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at UVA. All are willing to submit to the core values and vision of the house.
- Proximity can facilitate community, but it won't accomplish it for you. We make an effort to step out and spend time with people we wouldn't otherwise be in community with.

Their Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/xlothaus/>

**St. Constantine** – A classical Christian academy, tightly connected to local churches,

**Scuola Libera** – school of Tipi Loschi

In Italian: <http://www.scuolachesterton.org/info/>

An Article in English by one of the founders of Scuola Libera:

<http://humanumreview.com/articles/an-italian-initiative-the-scuola-libera-g-k-chesterton>

Christian Business and Religious Liberty

**Xist** – by Calee Lee – A children’s book company

About Xist (from their homepage): <http://www.xistpublishing.com/wp/about-us/>

**Grace Bible Chapel** – northern Maryland – publishes members businesses so they can support each other

**Institute for Excellence in Writing** – by Andrew Pudewa – The institute employs members of a traditional Catholic agrarian community, and publishes material for homeschoolers nationwide.

**Reba Place Fellowship** -- in suburban Chicago – This group has spun off several businesses that began as ministries.

Their businesses, which include real estate, furniture and greeting cards:

<https://www.rebaplacefellowship.org/common-work/>

On Community: Members of Reba Place Fellowship share in a variety of living arrangements-houses and apartments, single-family, individual, or shared housing situations. One of the important ways we share life together is by living together in households. Living together and with others from the church and wider community helps us to live more simply and to share life more deeply. Currently, Reba Place Fellowship has four “official” households as well as several co-housing arrangements within our membership.

*Tipi Loschi* – have three **business cooperatives** to provide employment for its members, rehabilitated drug addicts and former prisoners, follow principles of Distributism (Catholic philosophy)

**Christian business** yellow pages: <http://christianyp.com/index.tpl?do=home>

**Sam MacDonald** – in **Elk County**, northwestern PA – started manufacturing, is a big Catholic area, do die setting

An interesting back and forth on the religious nature and quality of life in Elk County:  
<http://www.theamericanconservative.com/dreher/going-back-to-elk-county-benedict-option/>

Jobs in Elk County: <https://www.indeed.com/q-Manufacturing-l-Elk-County,-PA-jobs.html>

About Elk County: <http://co.elk.pa.us/index.php/about-elk-county>

Christian Understanding of Sexuality:

**Humanum Series** – Catholic video series

Apparently not for free

**My Catholic Tube** trailer: <http://www.mycatholictube.com/videos/the-humanum-series/>

**Humanum group** on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/humanumit/videos>

**Pure Passion TV**

Subjects they deal with:

- Pornography
- Sexual Addiction
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Pedophilia / Ephebophilia
- Homosexuality / Lesbianism
- Adultery / Promiscuity / Divorce
- Prostitution / Child Trafficking
- Abortion / Unwed Mothers
- Intimacy with God
- The Divine Purpose for Human Sexuality

Their homepage: <http://www.purepassion.us/>

Pure Passion Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/DavidKyleFoster/videos>

### Technology:

**Reboot:** Jewish group that promotes digital Sabbath, fasting from tech

An article on Reboot and its Sabbath Manifesto: <http://ejewishphilanthropy.com/reboot-still-creating/>

Sabbath Manifesto, National Day of Unplugging: <http://www.sabbathmanifesto.org/unplug/>

*[This list is mostly complete, but I have left out a few individuals and I do not include Mormon information as they claim to be Christians but are not.]*