

## **Garden of Eden (GOE) Church**

### **Do you stream the GOE church services?**

### **(an expanded answer)**

No, the Garden of Eden church does not offer virtual connections to worship services. We do use video conferencing tools to support operations and one-on-one conversation, but for various reasons the GOE church does not support the adoption of virtual church services. To help you understand why this decision was made we provide the following reasons that are the result of much prayer, study, and discussion.

Nudity is encouraged and common at the GOE church. We want the church to be a safe, welcoming space and the presence of cameras can be disconcerting. Virtual connections also allow for anonymity, and potentially voyeurism. We don't believe a church should encourage either.

Materials under copyright protection are used in worship services. This is allowed if the material is not distributed in any way. The courts have found that many churches have violated copyright law by allowing virtual connections without obtaining required licensing. The GOE church adheres to all copyright laws and would incur additional costs to stream services.

Streaming nude services has the potential of violating user agreements and local, state, regional, and national laws. Attempting to comply with all possible variations of rules and laws is not within the resources available to the GOE Church.

The GOE church has an online presence where we gladly identify ourselves as Christians and where we seek to spread the gospel. We believe we must first and foremost be seen as Christians and that nudism is secondary to that truth. We do not believe it is part of the great Commission that we spread nudism. We are aware that some Christian nudists seem to be more focused on promoting social nudity than the gospel, but that is not the primary focus of the GOE church.

Providing online access would add significant additional weekly burdens to already stretched resources. All work for the church is done by volunteers, and we use a shared community space for services. Setting up, breaking down, and running a virtual connection would add a lot of overhead that is hard to justify.

We believe we are called to encourage and provide a special (and unique) nude Christian worship experience among those physically attending that simply cannot be replicated via remote access. Yes, we have the benefit of worshiping nude but that experience truly requires physical presence just like all social nudist activities. No nudist would suggest that online connections take the place of physically visiting clubs, beaches and other nudist venues.

And last, but certainly not least, it is our belief that remote worship should only be sought as a last resort for those who are physically incapable of attending a local church in person. If remote access is required we believe it is best to connect to a church close to home so the church could provide home visitation.

In summary, if it's not possible for a Christian nudist to find other Christian nudists near them for nude worship we advise seeking a local textile body of believers over a virtual connection as we believe it's best for Christians to gather together in person rather than isolating themselves at home on a remote connection just to be nude and/or see nudity.

It is an important distinction to us at the GOE church that those who come here gather together to worship as a body, accountable to one another, and able to support one another in a way that online access cannot provide. All Christians need this and we do not want to do anything that would encourage anyone to distance themselves from this vital physical connection.