

Dear Darin,

I first learned about Common Change (Relational Tithe at that time) randomly through a friend's post on Facebook over 8 years ago. It had only been a few years since I was first introduced to the principles of Christian Community Development, but I felt eager to really experience the three R's – relocation, reconciliation and redistribution. I was connected with a local community in the inner-city of New Orleans so I could see how those first two R's were being lived out. But coming across CC was the first peek I got into an actual attempt at redistribution and along relational lines no less! I was excited about the possibilities to see economics and lives transformed.

Since then, it has been a privilege to not only bless my friends and neighbors through this community, but also be part of blessing others who I may never meet. Learning the stories of people and hearing relational testimony about the practical effects of these acts of giving has been so encouraging for me.

I know that a lot of people who join CC may feel disenchanted with the tradition of institutional giving. I am part of a local church body and it's a joy to give both in my local context as well as through the Common Change community. My giving gets increased and expanded exponentially, and can reach far beyond myself and the people I know in this little corner of the world. And that's way more than I could do alone!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily Rhodes", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Emily Rhodes
New Orleans, LA