



# Restoration 2019: 2000 disciples

## THE 5 YEAR PLAN

As Restoration looks to the future, we are so grateful for the abundant grace that God has poured out on our church: We have good friends. We are changing our habits and priorities. We are finding new opportunities to pray and listen to God. We are seeking the good of our city.

In the next five years, no one wants to run ahead of the work God is doing in our church and the grace He is lavishing upon us. We want to take a humble posture of listening, learning, and responding to the opportunities He brings before us. We will choose to step at a pace that matches the grace He is giving. Only God is complete and full and we are dependent on His abundance to fill us again and again.

We are compelled by the question— How do I grow? The purpose of the church is to form people into the image of Christ for the sake of others. We believe this document articulates a way that Restoration will help people grow in the next season of our life together.

**Over the next five years, and dependent on God's grace and power, Restoration's goal is to see 2000 disciples of Jesus as a direct result of Restoration's ministry.** In order to accomplish this, Restoration will pursue two concurrent themes: We will create opportunities in our local church for disciples to mature and we will plant churches that proclaim the Gospel of Christ. These are not sequential. We believe that God is calling us to do both in humble dependence on His power and in proclamation of His glory.

## 2000 DISCIPLES

We believe that disciples of Jesus live a coherent<sup>1</sup> life. A disciple is:

1. **Convinced.** Wisdom is found in knowing God and knowing oneself. "Jesus... knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God. (John 13.1-4) They trust the authority of the Bible, understand doctrine, and apply a Christ-centered worldview to the questions that follow life in this world.
2. **Available:** They greet each day with open hands to what God has for them. They are surrendered to God's plan for their life and they trust that Jesus is the best to lead them. They are dependent on the Holy Spirit to guide their prayers and direct their steps. In all they do, in all they think, and in all they are becoming, they are completely dependent on God.
3. **Moving:** They are willing to act on what God says. They use their resources to deliberately participate in the building of God's Kingdom. They serve and take risks.
4. **Reflective:** They have a regular rhythm of evaluation and reflection. They invite others to speak into their lives and they know how to listen to the Holy Spirit. They seek out opportunities to mentor and be mentored.

Over the next five years, we want to create opportunities for people to grow in each of these areas. These traits provide a structure for us to evaluate our small groups for kids and adults and to focus our resources for the maximum effect. None of us is fully formed in any of these areas and thankfully they provide a guide for all of us to become more mature.

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<sup>1</sup> We believe that 'fully-integrated' is a very important concept. We want to make sure that we communicate that a disciple is someone who is following Jesus in 360 degrees of their life.



## MATURING DISCIPLES AT RESTORATION

The signature strength of Restoration is the trimester, small group, content-delivery system.

- > It has a low bar of entry that requires a short term commitment.
- > It is decentralized and allows small group participants to self-select their group and self-pace their vulnerability and relationship building.
- > It is flexible and allows people to explore a variety of topics and to do it with friends.
- > It is easy to reproduce.

Because of our small group system, Restoration is already doing a significant work of maturing disciples. All of our members make an 'extra commitment' each week to be in a community that is wrestling with the Scriptures and praying for each other. We are now providing small groups that facilitate discussion about money, marriage, parenting, vocation, prayer, Christian classics, survivors of sexual abuse, in addition to our 'normal' small groups that center on the sermon passage. The trimester system is effective and woven into the life of the church.

### **Defining Objectives for Restoration to mature 1000+ disciples in the next five years.**

1. Our corporate worship gatherings remain the central, attractional piece to glorify God and introduce 'the curious' to the Gospel.
2. Restoration creates a 'core curriculum' of small group offerings that provide opportunities for members to grow in the 4 traits of a disciple: convinced, available, moving, reflective. A 'starting point' small group will be offered each trimester for those who are new to Christianity. This curriculum needs to be packaged and marketed in a way that is easy to access.
3. Strengthen the very effective ManUp and Woman Unscripted programs (6-8 meetings annually each) in a way that does not cannibalize small groups. Mentoring has been a natural by-product of these programs and provides catalytic opportunities for one on one maturing conversations.
4. Annually, provide 2-3 weekend seminars that go deeper on critical topics like vocation, evangelism, parenting, and marriage.
5. Create experiential learning opportunities to connect heart and hands to what is happening in the head. These would facilitate partnership with our outreach partners and provide evangelism training. People grow as they take risks. Jesus consistently took his disciples to dangerous places and then taught them to not be afraid because He was with them.
6. Strengthen our prayer resources as a means to deal with emotional, physical, and spiritual brokenness. This could include re-tooling after-service prayer and prayer at small groups while also creating new prayer structures.
7. Create plans to mature our children and youth as disciples of Jesus at every age and developmental benchmark.

## PLANTING CHURCHES THAT PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

We believe that the life-changing Gospel transformation that happens in Restoration members can happen in new churches that are planted around the metro DC area and around the world. Church planting provides unique opportunities for deeper discipleship and broader leadership development as we build the people and structures that are necessary to make them healthy and reproducing.

We can say with confidence that Restoration knows how to plant a church that reaches, serves, and disciples the kind of people who live in North Arlington. The most reproducible good that God has done at Restoration is to mature people who pray, build relationships, share their individual stories of



transformation, and invite people to live God's story. We are seeking to increase our stable of trained Gospel-tellers.

Furthermore, we have found in the process of planting Restoration that planting a church is a profoundly effective way for people to grow in their discipleship. It is very hard to be a "consumer" of a church plant; the nature of the enterprise requires that everyone contribute and participate. This encourages people to discern their particular gifts and passions and to seek out ways that they can be used to serve the church. Additionally, a church plant is at its heart an evangelical endeavor, as it exists to bring new people into the family of God. Thus it both draws on and stretches our people's ability to tell their stories of Gospel transformation.

Some of the outreach activities and partnerships we have developed over the last four years have given us opportunities to practice the kind of relational evangelism that could form the basis of future church planting endeavors. Our partnerships in Philippi, WV, and western Turkey are the two primary examples, as our partners in both places encourage relationship first as an opportunity to share the Gospel.

There are numerous ways that Restoration could plant churches. We could create a church planting team of Restoration members that targets a new part of the DC metro area. We could work with our international partners—especially in Cambodia and Asia Minor—to plant churches in their communities. We could work with a pastor from an immigrant community here in Arlington to plant a church serving that demographic. There are additional opportunities for church planting that may emerge through our diocese and from places that we haven't yet even imagined.

### **Defining Objectives to plant 5 or more<sup>2</sup> churches that mature 1000 or more disciples**

1. Restoration members have a multiplication mindset. Every person at Restoration would either be launching with a plant team, sustaining the core, or sending with their prayers and gifts.
2. Evangelism becomes a core value for Restoration as evidenced by people inviting friends to church, practicing the art of telling their story, and creatively thinking about people who are 'not here' and what would interest them.
3. Restoration establishes a stable of potential clergy church planters by networking in ethnic minority circles, attending events like Anglican 1000, participating in diocesan church plant conversations, and creating a clergy intern program.
4. Leadership Development. Each of our staff members would become a trainer for their position. Our volunteer teams would need to multiply. Additional supervisory and administrative staff would be hired. Leadership training structures would need to be created.
5. Focus outreach resources (dollars and time) on church planting. Our current outreach partnerships would need to be re-assessed. New allocation of both operating and outreach dollars to fund church plant opportunities.
6. Seek out neighborhoods and local opportunities for sustainable church plants inside the beltway.

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<sup>2</sup> Five churches is a goal that stretches the limit of our imagination for how God could do it through Restoration. Humanly speaking, it is hard to imagine how it would happen in the next five years. Some have suggested that we should make 3 churches in 5 years our goal. It is still a stretch but seems more attainable. There is another suggestion that we plant '2 Restoration-type churches' in the next five years that will grow at the same rate as Restoration and each plant a church as well. Thus hitting our 5 church goal by birthing 2 strong daughter churches. I (David) think that any of these are possible. Restoration will have to make substantive changes to embrace ANY church planting goal. So at the end of the day, I think 2, 3, or 5 are all good. Only God knows if we will have the leaders and circumstances to make them sustainable.