



The Story of our Future:

Remembering from where we came 2009 to 2014

Final Draft

FRAMING THE TASK

The aim of this document is to tell the story of Restoration, to remember from where we came and to help us grasp the present. This is our history and these are the values that have shaped who we are today. These things are not changing.

Our God is a storytelling God. He made us in his image and revealed his plans for us in the Great Story of the Gospel: Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration. It is within this Great Story that we understand our own stories. Recognizing that Restoration's story depends on all that has come before and unfolds within the context of God's purposes, we seek now to chart the story of our future.

REMEMBERING FROM WHERE WE CAME

Our Vision

Restoration has only been around since 2009, but in that time, a clear vision has emerged that reflects who we are and shapes what we do: **We long to see broken people being restored by grace and finding their place in God's story.**

We are all broken people. We experience that brokenness in many ways—through what we have done and what others have done to us, through choices we have made and circumstances far beyond our control. The details vary for each of us, but ultimately we have this in common: God created us to be in a relationship with him, and that relationship has been broken beyond our ability to fix it.

The good news is that God hasn't left us in our brokenness. Jesus—God incarnate in human form—came for us. He lived, died, and rose again to restore our relationship with God, to heal all our brokenness. This was an act of love that was offered as pure gift—as grace. As we accept that grace and experience God's restoration, we find that we are part of something much bigger than ourselves. God is committed to bringing restoration and wholeness to all things, and he invites us to join him in that work. We all have a place in God's story.

Restoration's place in that story is to be a church in Arlington County that connects people to God, to others, and to the needs of the world. We do this through vibrant corporate worship, through small groups, and through service in our community and around the world. We are convinced that the gospel—the good news of God's grace offered in Christ—changes everything. And we're passionate about seeing that change in our lives and the lives of others.



Our Values

At our beginning, we articulated four core values that we wanted to shape our life together as a community. Since 2009, experience and reflection have shown that these values continue to reflect who we are, and they help us to maintain clarity as we move into the future. We must remember, rehearse, and teach these values lest we drift from the foundation they have set for us.

The good news of the Gospel—that Jesus, in his life, death, and resurrection, offers us a fully reconciled relationship with God—shapes every part of the culture of Restoration. We believe that:

- > **the Gospel changes everything.** Every part of our lives is touched by the Gospel. Our vocations, our relationships, our finances, our schedules—everything is transformed when we submit our lives to the leadership of Jesus Christ.
- > **the Gospel is catalyzed in our lives by community.** It is in community—in the gritty reality of relationships—that God does some of his most transformational work in us. Community calls us to practice repentance and forgiveness, to exhibit love when it's inconvenient, to experience grace and acceptance in the face of our brokenness and sin. We seek to create opportunities for this kind of community for the sake of gospel transformation. Almost everything we do has a foundation in a small group that includes mature as well as growing followers of Jesus who are in some form of spiritual mentoring and spiritually maturing relationship.
- > **the Gospel is proclaimed by Word and Sacrament.** We are grateful for and dependent on God's revelation of the Gospel in the holy scriptures and the sacraments. Our corporate worship—our public proclamation of faith—is shaped by this revelation. In our weekly worship, we value the reading and faithful explication of the scriptures and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. We are intentionally intergenerational in our gatherings so that our children grow up seeing adults who worship and so that our elder men and women can develop meaningful relationships with those who are coming behind them.
- > **the Gospel calls us to lives of responsibility and coherence.** Authentic gospel living, the obedient love for God and for our neighbors, is to be un-fragmented. Simply put, we want to be the same people seven days a week, no matter where we are or whom we are with. At home and at work, with friends and with strangers, we are called to love God and each other with everything we've got. We are committed to sharing the good news of Jesus in word and action, and to caring especially for the poor and the marginalized, as Jesus did.

Our Name

Restoration Anglican Church. It's a name we chose carefully, and we think it says a lot about who we are and what we believe:

- > **Restoration:** The Bible promises that Jesus is coming back as King to restore all things and to reconcile all things to God. He is bringing a new heavens and a new earth. In those last days, there will be a judgment and a separation. Truth will be vindicated. We will receive beauty for ashes. The broken will be bound up. The devastations of many generations will be repaired. Tears will be wiped away. What we believe about Jesus' coming reign also influences how we live in this present time. It affects our priorities, our relationships, our materialism, our generosity—everything. We are a church compelled by God's project of restoration.
- > **Anglican:** We are part of the multi-ethnic, multi-national, multi-cultural Anglican Communion that is historically rooted in the English Reformation. Specifically, we are a parish of the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic in the Anglican Church in North America. Our



Anglican identity also shapes who we are liturgically. We want to express the hallmarks of Anglican liturgy—dignity, historicity, and transcendence—in our worship.

- > **Church:** We are not just a community, a chapel, a service agency, or a group of friends. We are a gathering of God's people, the worldwide body of Christ. In the New Testament, we see that God chooses to gather Christians into discrete local congregations under the servant leadership of deacons, presbyters, and bishops. It is as a church that God chooses to use us to serve the world and to grow us as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our story

In 2006, David and Laurel Hanke moved, sight unseen, into a rental home in North Arlington in order for David to begin work as a young pastor in a local church. They enrolled their oldest child in the elementary school a few blocks away.

That house and that school were two of the seeds from which Restoration grew. Over the next several years, David and Laurel found that they had fallen in love with their neighbors, their kids' friends, and their kids' friends' families. They also found that very few of them had a deep friendship with God. They began to dream about starting a church where these people might come—and might come to follow Jesus.

In the summer of 2008, David and Laurel began hosting monthly prayer gatherings for folks who were curious about planting a church in Arlington. We prayed that God would give us a presence east of Glebe Road, north of Wilson Boulevard, close to Washington-Lee High School, and with access to the Orange Line corridor. The opportunity to worship at Trinity Baptist Church, at 1815 North Quincy Street, was God's clear answer to those prayers.

We started with one service in January 2009 and added a second service on Easter that year. After two years of renting, we were able to purchase that property. We knew that it was under-sized for the scope of our vision. But we had looked at dozens of other opportunities around Arlington County, and none of them came close to providing what that current facility did in terms of location, price, and access for use. We knew that we would continue to grow by creating additional worship services. In April 2011, we added a third Sunday service at 5:00 pm.

None of us could have imagined what has happened there over the last five years. More than 450 people, including nearly 100 children, worship at Restoration each week. More than that, so many lives have been transformed, so much brokenness has been healed, and so many people have fallen in love with and chosen to follow Jesus.

We unequivocally feel called to our place on North Quincy Street; it has been God's provision to us. So we have embarked on a building project to expand our physical space. We are excited to see what God will do as we create this place for Restoration.

Our building

In the fall of 2012, members and friends of Restoration enthusiastically participated in a capital campaign that we called "Responding to God's Grace." People gave generously, courageously, and sacrificially, and we raised over \$2.4 million in pledges for the new building. More importantly, people found that their relationships with Jesus were transformed as they set their finances before him and asked how he wanted to use them.



God led us to a gifted team of architects who have created a beautiful design for us. In the summer of 2014, we'll have a sanctuary to seat 375, ample classroom space for our kids, and great fellowship space as well. It all comes wrapped in a beautiful red brick exterior that fits right into the neighborhood. There's even a great front porch so we can continue the Restoration tradition of after-service coffee and snacks outside. Because it's not a Sunday at Restoration without donut holes.

FIVE YEARS IN: GRASPING THE PRESENT

Our Great Potential

As we enter into 2014, we find ourselves immensely blessed. We have a young, vibrant congregation of both the curious and the convinced. These people gather for worship each Sunday and connect during the week in small groups. They study the scriptures and pray and seek God's leading in their lives. They are learning to care for the poor and vulnerable. They are, on the whole, well educated, well traveled, and well resourced. They have followed God's call to a variety of occupations and interests.

All of these things mean that Restoration has the potential to exert significant influence in Arlington and the greater DC area. If we continue to grow in the depth of our discipleship and to be faithful and obedient to the Holy Spirit, Restoration could well make a major contribution to the building of God's kingdom in our community and around the world. Thus our present is marked by enormous potential:

- > In 2014, we will finish our building project and move back home to Quincy Street. We will return to 3 services each Sunday. We anticipate that in 2015, we will reach the capacity of our new space (800-900 people worshipping on a Sunday).
- > We believe that there will be opportunities to multiply what God has done in our church in other neighborhoods in the greater DC area. We also recognize that there are myriad ethnic groups in our neighborhoods that would benefit from healthy churches in their own languages and cultures.
- > There are hundreds of people in our church who want to grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus. And there are thousands of people in the DC area who need to enter into a relationship with Jesus. Both of those realities demand that we engage with people beyond the confines of our new church building.

Our Significant Threats

As always, with significant opportunity come significant threats. Restoration's story is not unfolding in a vacuum; it is being written within the context of a broader culture and of specific congregational characteristics. All of these create ongoing challenges as we seek to live out our vision. We believe that being clear about these threats and challenges will help us face them successfully as we move forward. They include:

- > a post-Christian American culture of consumerism, pleasure, hyper-sexuality, comfort, materialism, individualism, and self-sufficiency—all of which run contrary to the gospel and the values of the kingdom of God.
- > a local culture of busyness, self-importance, pursuit of power, and isolation—all of which fight against the creation of genuine community.
- > spiritual warfare being waged against families, truth, and contentment. We see this in regular attacks on marriage, an ethic of life, and religious freedom.
- > self-deception that hinders transparency and humble reception to instruction.



- > a congregation unfamiliar with Anglican history, worship, and polity. This contributes to an anemic understanding of the meaning of our patterns of worship and of our place and role as part of a worldwide communion.
- > a lack of ethnic and socio-economic diversity; we don't model or reflect the diversity of the kingdom of God.

It will be useful to keep these threats in mind as we are prioritizing programmatic and other limited resources, recognizing that some of them will rightly require more of our attention than others.

Our Critical Issues

As we survey the spiritual landscape of our congregation, seven critical issues clearly emerge. These are needs, desires, or simply realities that will require our attention, prayer, and energy. There are any number of ways that these issues could be addressed through programs, activities, initiatives, etc. However, our desire is to identify one guiding passion, one compelling goal, that we believe God is offering to Restoration for the next five years. If we discern that goal well, and if we are faithful and creative in how we approach it, it will encompass and address all seven of these critical issues:

1. **Deeper discipleship of the head, heart, and hands.** Christian faith is not a one-and-done phenomenon; Jesus calls us into an ever growing, ever deepening relationship with him. While the commitment of many at Restoration to follow Jesus is real, all of us must continue to grow in our understanding of what it means to be his disciples in the ways we think, live, and love.
2. **Mentoring.** As a person seeks to walk faithfully through the different stages and challenges of life, there is little that is more helpful than someone who can come alongside him or her to walk deliberately through it. We have begun to institutionalize mentorship through initiatives like Man Up, Mentoring Moms, pre-marital mentoring, fellowship opportunities for teachers and for medical professionals, and connections among people whose aging parents need assistance. There are many more vocations and slices of our demographic that would benefit from intentional mentorship.
3. **Leadership Development.** The continued spiritual growth of a congregation of Restoration's size will depend on the development of a deep bench of leaders—dedicated and gifted volunteers. This will require education (convincing the congregation of the need for leadership development); identification (who are the leaders already in our midst? how can we help identify leadership gifts among newcomers?); and training/development. This may well require increased staff capacity to accomplish.
4. **Evangelism.** True disciples of Jesus are committed to sharing the transformative news of the gospel with others. We need to provide opportunities for people to give verbal witness to their relationship with Jesus, training in apologetics and story-telling, and motivation for why to do it.
5. **Our new facility.** Within 6 months, we will have a multi-million dollar resource that we have never had the opportunity to steward. What role should our new building play in our discipleship efforts? How will we use it to serve, love, and evangelize our neighbors?
6. **Middle and high school ministry.** We have a growing number of students in this age range. How will we disciple youth to stay faithful to Jesus through high school, into college, and then into their lives as working adults? Additionally, we are the closest church to Washington-Lee High School. How can we reach these students with the gospel?
7. **Children.** One of the hallmarks of Restoration's community has been the enormous number of children entrusted to our care, and that shows no sign of changing. How will we continue to love, serve, and form the children in our midst? Will we need to hire additional kid ministry staff? What if our 8 new classrooms cannot hold all of our children on a Sunday? What are the holes we are missing in the discipleship of our kids?



Summary

This is what God has done at Restoration. These are the things we value. These are the opportunities and threats which we face. We are so grateful for what God has done. We are poised to go forward into the work to which He is calling for the season to come.