



EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE  
**Transfiguration**

## Mission

The mission of Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration is to seek and serve Christ in all persons.

## Vision 2016

We seek to be an inclusive community of disciples who love God and follow Jesus through reverent worship, compassionate service, formative education, and sacrificial stewardship.

## Strategic Goals

### 1. Reverent Worship

*“Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.” Psalm 29:2*

**Worship is at the center of the Christian life, and it is the heartbeat of Transfiguration. In the next five years, we will remain committed to worshiping God reverently and beautifully, and seek new ways to draw more people into a pattern of worship and prayer.**

- a. Honoring our rich history, we will preserve our holy objects and spaces
  - i. We will create a policy manual for ongoing maintenance of vessels, vestments, and other holy things.
  - ii. We will properly fund the ministry of the Altar Guild to strengthen its work of caring for and maintaining all holy objects
- b. Building on the beauty and holiness of existing liturgies, we will launch a new service to draw and feed a new group of people
- c. Seeking to broaden our worshiping congregation beyond those able to be physically present, we will utilize new methods to provide worship experiences to more people
  - i. We will incorporate digital recording to make our services available online
  - ii. We will develop partnerships with other communities in order to share the witness of our worship
- d. Recognizing our diverse worship needs, we will engage in a process of evaluation and preparation to build a chapel

## 2. Compassionate Service

*“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.” Colossians 3:12*

Jesus had far more than sympathy for the suffering of the world, he had compassion. Compassion moves us beyond a feeling of pity to do something to heal or aid the sufferer. In the next five years, compassion will guide us as we seek to bear the healing and restorative love of Christ into the world.

- a. Seeking to deepen our discipleship, we will provide opportunities for every member of Transfiguration to engage in meaningful ways of serving others
  - i. We will encourage all ministries and organizations to perform at least one outreach-based effort per year
  - ii. We will further develop the ministry of the Food Distribution Center and commit funding and resources to its growth
- b. Honoring our most vulnerable members, we will strengthen our pastoral care ministries to ensure all members feel God’s loving care
  - i. We will support the growth of our Pastoral Care Committee
  - ii. We will hire another staff member to support pastoral care
  - iii. We will expand our Stephen and Eucharistic Visitor ministries
- c. Respecting the sacredness of children, we will enhance our partnerships with local schools
  - i. We will investigate organizations that connect churches and schools, to receive guidance on how to make the greatest impact
  - ii. We will expand our relationship with Spring Valley Elementary and pursue opportunities for more parishioners to become involved as mentors, tutors, and resource-providers
- d. Seeking Christ abroad as well as locally, we will resume intergenerational mission trips and create a new international mission partnership

## 3. Inclusive Community

*“I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.” John 10:14-16*

Jesus stretched out his arms of love on the hard wood of the cross, so that all would come within the reach of his saving embrace. In the next five years, we will stretch our embrace even wider so that we can draw ever more people, and especially those whom society has oppressed or rejected, into his loving arms.

- a. Honoring our baptismal promise to proclaim the Good News in word and action, we will strengthen our evangelistic efforts
  - i. We will equip our members to be more enthusiastic and effective evangelists
  - ii. We will develop new congregational strategies for sharing our story as a church and inviting people to join us

- b. Recognizing the pathway from newcomer to involved member is varied and diverse, we will create a comprehensive welcoming ministry
  - i. We will create a process to intentionally connect newcomers with existing members, ministries, or fellowships
  - ii. We will perform an annual review of the membership roster to improve accuracy and evaluate retention rates
  - iii. We will regularly perform a new member “inventory” to gauge the spiritual gifts and skills of our community
- c. Seeking to offer all sacramental rites for all people, we will seek a resolution that will allow us to perform same-sex marriages
- d. Desiring to move beyond our own walls, we will seek ways to bless people beyond our own church membership
  - i. We will deepen our relationship with Church of the Holy Faith and support their efforts to grow and thrive
  - ii. We will seek ways to engage in meaningful relationships with our Spanish-speaking neighbors
  - iii. We will seek new ways to invite and welcome Parish Episcopal School families into our community

## 4. Formative Education

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment.” Matthew 22:37-38*

**Faithfulness invites us to constantly go deeper with God. We love not only with our hearts and souls, but also with our minds. In the next five years, we will offer programs, classes, and events that inspire and inform us, so that we can follow Jesus more faithfully.**

- a. Recognizing the spiritual impact of formation, we will seek to broaden the depth and reach of our educational offerings
  - i. We will utilize digital platforms to share lectures, classes, and other resources
  - ii. We will solidify the St. Catherine’s Fund to ensure its sustainability
  - iii. We will support the development of resources and opportunities for spiritual renewal
- b. Anticipating the need for strong leadership in the future, we will focus on leadership formation across generations
  - i. We will create a system to connect talented, committed members with various forms of leadership
  - ii. We will develop a leadership pathway from basic membership involvement to Vestry
  - iii. We will reinforce patterns of prayer, Biblical reflection, and quiet contemplation at the start of all ministry meetings and look to the Sermon on the Mount to orient decision-making
  - iv. We will reinstate the Parish Council as a body of effective leaders
- c. Honoring the spiritual need for holy rest, we will cultivate the practices of spiritual retreat and pilgrimage, both congregationally and individually, and encourage all members to seek God through the ancient spiritual practice of holy journeying

## 5. Sacrificial Stewardship

*“All things come from you, O Lord, and of your own have we given to you.” 1 Chronicles 29:14*

The abundant life to which Jesus calls his disciples is not one of comfort or ease. We are called to give ourselves away in love and service of others, to care for the whole of creation as faithful stewards, and to be defined by generosity. In the next five years, we will be sacrificial stewards not only of our wealth, but of all the resources entrusted to us.

- a. Honoring our role as stewards of the church's financial health, and looking toward future financial needs, we will create long-range plans for giving and the budget
  - i. We will create a 5-year budget to guide year-over-year development and growth
  - ii. We will create a unified plan to integrate various ministry solicitations and diminish donor fatigue
  - iii. We will increase operational giving by 25% by 2021
  - iv. We will increase the percentage of pledging units to 75% of total member households by 2021
  - v. We will triple the Transfiguration Endowment by 2026
- b. Honoring our role as stewards of our campus and anticipating future capital needs, we will create a capital/campus master plan
  - i. We will thoroughly evaluate usage of all church-occupied buildings by 2018
  - ii. We will coordinate with ministry heads to determine needs and desires with regard to facilities by 2019
  - iii. We will create an updated capital maintenance report to guide annual capital maintenance expenditures and inform discernment about a possible future capital campaign
- c. Honoring our role as stewards of Creation, we will create a cohesive plan to make Transfiguration a model of conservation and earth-care
  - i. We will commit to generating zero net carbon emissions by 2023
  - ii. We will develop an environmental plan to inform decisions on how the grounds and physical plant are utilized and maintained



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