

Church of the Resurrection Core Values and Priorities

(Adopted 15 Dec 2003)

Background

The Church of the Resurrection is a 40-year old Episcopal parish of 350 members with an annual budget of \$275,000, located in the west end of Alexandria, Virginia. Over the past three years, in recognition of the changing nature of our surrounding community and our own membership, we have engaged in several initiatives to discern our unique call from God.

We have studied the demographic changes around us, reviewed our own history, identified our past and present strengths, and envisioned possible futures for ourselves. We have worked at this discernment through book study, surveys, parish questionnaires and interviews, and congregational gatherings.

This work has led to the following statements of Core Values and Priorities for Ministry and Mission.

Our Core Values

- **We are a eucharistically-centered community; we gather to share vibrant and enthusiastic worship in the Episcopal/Anglican tradition.**
- **We warmly welcome all people; we embrace and celebrate our rich diversity of culture, race, age and lifestyle.**
- **We are led by our love of God in outreach to our neighboring communities and loving service to one another.**
- **We invite all people to grow spiritually through active engagement with our parish ministries and mission.**

Our Priorities

I. Worship

- We strengthen our connection to God and to one another through liturgical worship in the Episcopal/Anglican tradition.
- Our worship experiences foster our core values as a community:
- We are warm and welcoming;
- We celebrate diversity; and
- We seek to support one another as we face the daily challenges of living.
- We welcome the participation of all people, including children, young people, adults, and seniors.
- Our music supports congregational participation in our worship, provides inspiration, and reflects the richness of our diversity.

II. Parish Community

- We build community through large parish events, small groups and one-to-one caring in times of joy or grief.
- We have events and programs for people in all life stages, all generations, and all family configurations to enrich our fellowship and to foster participation by newcomers.
- We encourage people to make personal connections to each other by sharing their leadership skills, passions and quest for spiritual growth.
- We practice listening to one another and giving honest responses. We value each person; no one is dismissed.
- We include in our parish community those who are unable to join us in worship, through home visiting, sharing the Eucharist and taking food when needed.
- We are committed to a ministry of hospitality that includes a welcome to those who join us in our parish activities and to all who use our facilities.

III. Outreach

- We seek to express God's love for us in outreach and service with our neighbors locally and with our extended church family around the world, especially those countries of origin for members of the congregation, particularly in Africa and Guatemala.
- We emphasize generously offering our time and money to serve the needs of children and families for food, shelter, and quality pre-school education.
- We encourage wide participation in our outreach initiatives by offering a variety of flexible opportunities for short- and long-term involvement.
- We offer the use of our building and facility to various groups in the community in support of their efforts to improve the community.

IV. Christian Formation

- We understand Christian Formation to be a lifelong process of education and growing in faith and understanding.
- We strive toward spiritual awareness through regular study of Scripture.
- We seek to find God through examining issues of daily living, interpreted through Scripture, the sacraments, our tradition, and our experience.
- We recognize the Christian Formation of children and youth to be both our responsibility and our joy. We support our young people with our time, concern and presence as they embark on their lifetime journey in faith.
- We encourage parishioners to be involved in small groups in the congregation such as Christian formation, prayer, discussion, or Bible study groups; as well as social or fellowship groups and other congregational activities.
- We commit to providing the staff, materials and space in order to facilitate all of the above.

V. Stewardship and Engagement

- We support our core values through responsible stewardship of our energy, our skills, and our resources.
- We encourage proportional giving of time, talent, and money.
- We actively encourage parishioners to accept leadership roles within the church and beyond.
- We participate in service events to build our connection to each other, our parish, the community and God.

VI. Building and Facilities

- We maintain our premises to be attractive and welcoming, with easy access, presenting as few physical and cultural barriers as possible.
- We have flexible and appropriate physical facilities and use them creatively to support our ministries and mission.
- We use and adapt our space to accommodate our changing needs.