



Who We Are
What We Believe As a Church
By Pastor Ricardo Francois



Our Mission:

“To make More and Better Disciples of Jesus Christ”

The mandate of Jesus can be summed up in what we call the great commission. “Go into all the world and make disciples, baptizing them, and teaching them to obey all that Jesus commanded” and the great commandment, “Love the Lord with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself.” To lead people to Christ and teach them His ways is the mission we share with the church worldwide.

Our Vision:

“To experience church like we read about it in the Bible”

The church we read about in the Bible sets the example for the way we are to live our lives together under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. While cultural expressions may differ, the call to live a radical lifestyle in obedience to the principles of the Bible and by the power of the Holy Spirit is the same.

Our Model:

“Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

The first generation church we read about in the Bible devoted themselves to the Apostle’s teaching (Training and equipping) and to fellowship (ministry one to another), to the breaking of bread (worship) and to prayer (intercession). As a result the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Our Philosophy of Ministry:

Love people for who they are: (Love)

Jesus calls us as His followers to love one another. In John 13:34 Jesus tells us... *A new command I give to you, that you love one another, as I have loved you, that you also love one another.* This command is based on the unconditional love, which God has for us as our father. This love is not based on performance or our tradition and finds its greatest fulfillment in the gift of Jesus Christ to us as our Savior and Lord. As we receive Jesus into our lives we become the children of God. As children, our heavenly Father loves us unconditionally. In the same way that God loves us, He asks that we love each other. As children of God, we are brothers and sister in Christ. Together, we are all part of God’s family.

Accept people as they are: (Acceptance)

Jesus calls us as his followers to accept each other. In Matthew 11:28, Jesus says... *Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* God accepts everyone who comes sincerely before Him in brokenness and repentance. All He asks is that we surrender our lives to Him and yield to Him as our Lord. In the same way that Jesus accepts us, He asks that we accept others. We receive people where they are, not where we wish they would be. We accept everyone no matter where they may be in their walk with Jesus.

Forgive people no matter what: (Forgiveness/Honor)

Jesus calls His followers to forgive each other. No matter what may have happened in the past we are to extend Jesus' forgiveness and our forgiveness to others. Jesus tells us in Luke 6:37 to... **Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.** As God's children, we are to be people of mercy. We are to extend forgiveness to those who have hurt or offended us. Just as Jesus forgave our sins through His death on the cross, we also are to forgive the sins others commit against us.

We Believe:

- **In** one God revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- **In** God the Father who governs the earth according to His will and purpose.
- **In** God the Son who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, died on a cross, was buried and raised from the dead in order to provide the way for us to be brought back into relationship with God.
- **In** God the Holy Spirit who prompts us to repent and live according to the principles of God's Kingdom, producing the fruits and imparting the gifts of the Spirit for successful living and serving.
- **In** the church universal made up of all those who have been called out of darkness into the light, have placed their faith in Jesus for salvation and who live under His Lordship.
- **In** the Bible as the only written Word of God and the ultimate authority for what we believe and the way we are to live.
- **In** the visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ in great glory and power to receive into heaven all those who have personally received Jesus as Savior and Lord and to send to hell all those who have not accepted Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

We Are A Community

Hosting God's Presence

Hosting God's presence through the work and power of the Holy Spirit is central to all that we are seeking to accomplish. Giving the Holy Spirit time and room to move in each cell (home) group, celebration service, healing or deliverance session, facilitates the Holy Spirit's work and movement in the lives of the individuals being ministered to. Hosting His presence requires faith on our part in believing that God, through the Holy Spirit, wants to move and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him and facilitate His presence.

Authentic Biblical Community

Biblical community is like a family. It is a safe place to establish relationships that bring life to each individual; a relationship with God and relationships with one another. *Loving* people for who they are, *accepting* them as they are, and *forgiving* them no matter what they have done in the past or in the present produces a culture where each person is

honored and valued. As spiritual moms and dads mentor and teach spiritual sons and daughters, young believers are disciplined and grow in the ways and wisdom of the Lord.

Every participant a carrier of God's presence

One to another ministry is a primary way that God makes His presence known in the midst of a group of believers. As we pray and prophecy one to another, the Holy Spirit is released to move, God's glory is revealed, and His purposes are realized. Ministry is not just filling a particular organizational role. It is primarily spiritual and displayed through prophecy, healing, deliverance, encouragement, mercy, forgiveness, and the exercising of spiritual gifts. As individuals find their God-ordained purpose, they are released into the fullness of all God intends for them to be as a carrier of His presence.

OUR VALUES



12 Foundational Values

- 1. Truth**

The Bible is God's Word. It outlines the standard by which our attitudes and behavior are to be measured. The challenge is to always bring our lives up to the standard of Truth and not adjust the standard of Truth to line up with our lives. Biblical standards of conduct supersede all other social and cultural standards.
- 2. Community**

The church is a place to belong. It is like an extended family where each member is responsible to and for one another in accountable relationships. Members of the church care for and serve one another in an atmosphere of love, acceptance, and forgiveness and live their lives together in both small and large group settings.
- 3. Leadership**

The pastoral eldership team has the freedom and responsibility to lead the church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ who is the head of the church. A presiding elder gives overall direction to the eldership and is responsible to manage the daily activities of the congregation. Instead of doing the entire ministry, elders are responsible to train and equip the people and release them to engage in their callings and ministries.
- 4. Life Transformation**

Lives are transformed by the renewing of our minds. More than simply knowing about God and the Bible, we must personally know Him in an intimate, transparent relationship where we experience forgiveness of sin, freedom from past hurts, and healing of brokenness in our lives through the life-changing power of the Holy Spirit.
- 5. Every Member a Minister**

Every member, including youth and children, is to be actively involved in ministering to one another to build up the local body of Christ. In order for this to happen, each member is encouraged to pursue a path of discipleship thus equipping him or her in his or her gifting and call. Through spiritual gifts and the power of God, each person is a vessel of love, care, and healing.
- 6. Worship**

Through worship we bless God and minister to Him. We praise Him for who He is through singing, other worshipping arts, and the spoken word. Our worship services include celebration, adoration, proclamation, and exultation.

7. Prayer

Prayer is the foundational work of the church. In prayer, we discover and are led to accomplish the purpose of God in our life, family, church, community, nation and world. Our need to pray reminds us that the vision of God and the work of the kingdom are beyond our own ability to bring to pass and that without His help we can accomplish little.

8. Giving

The tithe (10% of ones income) is the foundation of Biblical giving and is given to and distributed by the local church. Faith promise giving for missions, sacrificial giving for facilities and compassion giving for the needy are each given above and beyond the tithe. While the tithe is given out of obedience to God, offerings above and beyond the tithe are optional and are to be given according to ability and desire.

9. Faith

As God's children, we are called to walk by faith and not by sight being led by the direction of the Holy Spirit and the instructions of God's Word. We therefore value hearing God's voice, obeying His directives, and applying the Word of God to our daily lives.

10. Work of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit has been given to empower the church to fulfill the purpose and claim the destiny God has created us for. We therefore value the Holy Spirit's presence and power in every celebration gathering, cell meeting and personal relationship.

11. Outreach

The main focus of the church is to be outward rather than inward and the local congregation is the main tool God uses to bring transformation to communities. Reaching out to others is not simply one of the things we do but the focus of everything we do as a church. Extending the kingdom of God both at home and around the world must be at the forefront of our minds in every decision we make.

12. Unity

Working together as a local body of Christ is essential if we are to accomplish the tasks that God has for us. We also value relationships with other local congregations and ministries who are like-minded. We share common vision, values, objectives, and distinctive as local congregations as well as with the broader Restoration network of churches.



Summary:

What are we as a church?

When we read the Bible, we see Jesus as inclusive, welcoming and connecting with all kinds of people. Jesus met people where they were. We want to be like Jesus – reaching people where they are. The name “Restoration” comes from a belief that we are all deeply loved by God, and through God, we can experience hope and renewal. All of us are on a journey, and God wants to connect with us along the way.

We live in an age of time where people have forgotten what it’s like to be part of a community that loves unconditionally. It is not common to find acceptance these days, forgiveness is not easily extended and living in a culture of honor is almost unheard of. In past decades people wondered, “If churches can't even agree on what the most important parts of Christianity are, why should I go to church, or even care about Jesus?” Here at Restoration, we have pondered on the same things. That is why we have decided to keep it simple. We are a kingdom-minded community, devoted to following Jesus and keeping Him at the center.

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God that He has given to show us something of himself. (His nature). We can't try to manipulate His Word to make it fit in our world or to our way of thinking. He is the Creator. We are the created. That means His principles are worth following. We are a spirit-filled community that gives room to the Holy Spirit to bring the changes in our lives.

We pray that Jesus is magnified in all that we do from our Sunday celebration services to home groups gatherings, to teaching the Bible and applying his Word in our daily lives. Jesus has done more for us than we can ever hope or imagine! Join us as we worship the only true God.

We are located at 3220 Monet Drive, Virginia Beach, VA, 23453

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