



Summary and Invitations from Visioning Retreat #1

We give great thanks and praise to God for God's presence with us! Thank you to each of you for how you are a part of the community of faith- for your labor of love, for your faith, and for your prayers. We are pleased to report that our first ReForming Visioning Weekend was a powerful time of discernment and listening to the Spirit's invitations. Listed below you will find a brief summary of some of the items we discussed, along with some invitations as we continue in this season of ReForming...What is God Calling us to Next?

- We began with prayer and reflection on Scripture together.
- After introductions, Kevin Graham Ford outlined how our work is to discern our TRUE NORTH, outlining our process to determine our core values, focus, and strategic priorities.
- We spent some time revisiting the TCI Overview, clarifying some of the data. A few points of interest:
 - 509 participants
 - 72% over 56 years old
 - 84% live less than 20 minutes away
 - 74% have been at Colonial for 10+ years
- Kevin helped us to understand that our survey data is scored against other churches that have worked with TAG in a process similar to ours. This means these are churches that have the energy, investment, and money to engage such a process.
- We looked at rate of negative responses (a 1 or 2 on the 5-point scale) in the broad subject areas. We had the fewest negative responses in Relationships, the Building, and Finances. We had the most negative responses in Connectedness, Vision, and Involvement.
 - Many of us appreciated the distinction between **Relationships** (feeling supported by people and connected with them- we scored POSITIVELY on this vs. **Connectedness** (the stickiness of our community- are there ways to clearly connect into ministry areas) which we scored quite NEGATIVELY.
- As a group, we engaged in a SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) based off of the data in the survey, and the feedback from the focus groups.
- On Sunday we spent a significant time discussing questions in small groups. These included questions such as:
 - Why is our congregation so resistant to change (we said we were in our survey data)?

- What are the consequences of avoiding change?
- What are the consequences of changing
- In what ways do we believe our leadership needs to function differently in light of this?
- Kevin outlined that in this process we need to decide what will be preserved and what needs to change...assuming that there is much we will keep even as things will also change as we ReForm.
- We then talked about our CODE. Our CODE is who we are - our DNA - what makes Colonial uniquely Colonial. It is revealed in the stories of our community, our visuals, our traditions, our decisions, and our heroes. As we uncover this we then can utilize this to root into our TRUE NORTH.
- This CODE then becomes the source for our action, vision, strategy and mission.
- We returned breakout groups in which we discussed the following questions:
 - What is your most meaningful memory at Colonial?
 - What positive stories have become “larger than life” at Colonial?
 - Which “heroes” in our past best embody our story?
 - Which historical decisions have defined us in a positive way?
 - What else makes Colonial different from other churches, in a positive way?
- From this exercise, we identified themes that emerged in our conversation.
- We closed with reflection and prayer.

So this is where we want to re-engage with YOU. We invite you to consider the following questions and share your responses one of a variety of ways: via email (email communications@colonialchurch.org), via conversations with your small group or Bible study that you record and share with us, via our FaceBook Page, by joining us TONIGHT or on Sunday, March 11 to share your stories and thoughts, by sharing your story via a video recording on March 18 or 25 at church, or by writing your story on paper scrolls that will be placed around the church for the next month. Responses will be collected and coded for additional themes that we will bring to the next Vision Team Meeting.

Questions- We Want to Hear From YOU!

- What is your most meaningful memory at Colonial?
- Who are the “heroes” in our past—or in our midst—that best embody our story?
- What themes—distinctive values or characteristics of Colonial—are suggested by these stories and heroes?

And in all things, let us all continue in prayer as we together journey through...

ReForming: What is God Calling us to Next?