

## **I. Vision/Mission**

- A. Our Vision Statement that we presented last week describes what we believe is the will of the Lord for the future state of our church family. We desire that this vision inspires us, directing us towards what the destiny of our church will look and feel like.

**“To Glorify God by Walking in Faith, Rejoicing in Hope, and being Known by Love”**

## **II. Mission Statement of Restoration Fellowship**

- A. This Mission Statement will serve as a definition of the priorities we set before ourselves to do as a church family to walk into our vision.

**“Our Mission is to Gather, Equip, and Commission disciples of Jesus”**

## **III. Gather**

- A. The intentional gathering of the people is one of the paramount commands and will of God in the scripture. Nearly every aspect of growth in God requires intentionality of interpersonal relationships, whether it be the aspects of love, fruits of the Spirit, gifts of the Spirit, testing of our faith, etc. (Eph. 5:15-21; Col. 3:14-17)

1. Intentional Gathering of the Saints - Post Ascension (Acts. 2:46)
  - a. Temple Daily - Corporate-ministry-focused gathering: Corporate worship, prayer, and messaging.
  - b. Breaking Bread from House to House - Interpersonal-ministry-focused gathering: Meeting in small groups to take communion together, encourage and admonish one another, and practice the gifts.
  - c. Eating their food with gladness and simplicity of heart - Interpersonal fellowship: Meeting together with the sole pursuit and purpose of relational fellowship and community building.

- B. Doing life together - Jesus sent out His disciples in pairs. This structure was upheld by the early church. We never see a disciple alone, with the exception of Judas. Both in the scriptures and in our experience, isolation is almost always associated with some major diminishment of faith, and for some, a total falling away. (Eph. 5:15-21; Col. 3:14-17)

#### **IV. Equip**

- A. Many translations use the word “perfecting” interchangeably with the word “equipping” when referring to the numerous references in which there is an intentional effort made by one individual or group to another to strengthen their faith and Christian practice. In Christian culture today, we primarily use the word “discipleship” to express this same intentional pursuit and accountability within the command of Jesus for His disciples to go out and make disciples of all nations.
  - 1. There are three primary aspects seen in scripture when it comes to the equipping of the saints. We all need continual encouragement, admonishment, and accountability from one another and to one another.
    - a. Equipping in Truth - Whether it be the initial work of evangelism or the perfection of the mature saint, the ongoing necessity of being grounded and fueled by the truth found in the word of God remains paramount.
    - b. Equipping in Spiritual Disciplines - The teaching, admonishment, and establishing of the primary spiritual disciplines such as prayer, worship, repentance, serving, giving, and gathering.
    - c. Equipping in Spiritual Gifts - Fostering an environment of desiring, recognizing, and practicing spiritual gifts permeates the new testament scriptures. It is of note that the primary focus is the maturation of conducting them in love and power; not of being permeated within the body.

## V. Commission

- A. The pattern of discipleship practiced by Jesus and by the early church is one ever increasing season of personal growth and proving, leading to recognizing and commissioning. Individuals are continually intentionally equipped and then released to do ministry in accordance with their maturity and gifting.
1. Being commissioned or sent out in the new covenant family of believers is never a unilateral work but rather an intentional focus of the community of peers, in both the discernment and the accountability needed for healthy commissioning to take place.
  2. The sending out or commissioning of the saints is an absolute necessity and, unfortunately, an often neglected aspect of growth and walking into the fullness of love and of our calling.