



Foundry



STRENGTH FOR TODAY AND BRIGHT HOPE FOR TOMORROW

A Strategic Vision for Foundry United Methodist Church



From Our Senior Pastor

Since 2014, I have had the joy of serving as your Senior Pastor. In that time, I've seen the power of our witness in the world. People discover and rediscover faith here. Lives are transformed as we live into the Gospel values of inclusion and embrace, justice and hospitality, deep study and worship, and the beauty of an intergenerational, diverse, beloved community.

Together we have endured seasons of trial — within our denomination, our city, and our nation. Our present moment is no less challenging, yet Foundry continues to rise to meet it. In the heart of our nation's capital, with a legacy of centuries-long engagement in the public square, Foundry responds with courage to the pressing issues of our day.

We know that the Church is not clergy alone but the whole Body of Christ, each of us offering our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Christ's Church is strengthened when we bring our full selves. And when Foundry is strong, the world around us is blessed. This strategic vision emerges from that conviction.

The vision names four core priorities that will guide our ministry:

- Foundry must embody radical hospitality — extending God's welcome in every space, every encounter, and every ministry. Invitation, hospitality, and caring for those who walk through our doors are at the heart of our call. We share our love of Christ and Foundry, trusting that people respond when invited.
- God created us for community. At Foundry there is a circle with your name on it — circles of learning, discipleship, care, justice, joy, and faith.
- Our ministries nurture the next generations in faith, provide relationships of care, and open doors for children and youth to serve in the church and wider world.
- Whether you are new to Foundry or a long-time member, you will find opportunities to serve — through direct aid that offers "strength for today" and through advocacy that advances "bright hope for tomorrow."

This vision is rooted in the belief that our vitality and sustainability depend upon three commitments: cultivating lay leadership, practicing faithful financial stewardship, and engaging in clear, creative communication that shares the good news within and beyond our walls.

Beloved, we need one another — and the world needs Foundry. May this vision guide us as we continue to offer strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow.

With gratitude and hope,

Rev. Ginger E. Gaines-Cirelli



Our Call

Love God.

Love Each Other.

Change the World.

Who We Are

Foundry is a historic, progressive United Methodist Church that welcomes all, worships passionately, challenges the status quo, and seeks to transform the world through God's love. Deeply grounded in the traditions of our faith, we aim to be innovative in our efforts to be a place of positive change within Christianity, within our denomination, within ourselves, and in the world.

What We Do

At Foundry, our call is to deepen faith through transcendent worship and challenging study, to create engaged community through inclusiveness and caring, and to transform the world through active service and prophetic leadership.

Our Priorities

Over the next five years, the Foundry community will focus on four core priorities



Invitation, Hospitality, and Care

We will bring others into our community by sharing God's love and witnessing to the mission and ministry of Foundry. We will embody radical hospitality and provide a transcendent worship experience. We will care for all who encounter Foundry and walk alongside each other in times of celebration and challenge, joy and grief..



Children, Youth, and Their Families

Children and youth will explore their developing faith, build meaningful relationships, and find opportunities to serve their church and the wider world. We will support a growing number of children, youth and their families, engaging them fully in congregational life.



Communities of Learning, Care, Service, and Justice

We will help everyone at Foundry find their circle by expanding and supporting small groups, intellectually challenging classes, and opportunities for fellowship. These will be places where all can learn, grow, serve, and be in relationship with others.



Service and Social Justice

We will establish a Center for Social Justice that serves as a hub for service, direct aid to our neighbors, and advocacy opportunities to create the just world we seek. The Center will convene, learn from, teach, and equip other congregations to do this work.

Our Path Forward

Three commitments will inform and support how we pursue our priorities:

Lay Leadership Development

We will call, equip, send, and support the Foundry community as they envision and execute the vision for our congregation. Everyone will have a community and a role that connects them to the wider congregation.

Financial Stewardship

We will ensure long-term financial stability by reducing our debt, expanding our financial reach, and caring for our building so that it continues to be a hub of the community's work.

Clear, Creative Communication

We will create systems of communication that make it easy to find new ways to serve and tell the story of Foundry to the wider world. As part of this work, we will focus on Foundry's internal data and communications systems.





Our Vision

How will Foundry be different in 2030 if we successfully bring our vision to life? Envision with us how we will learn, grow, and deepen our relationship with God as we carry out this work together.



Invitation, Hospitality, and Care

Foundry is a place of **radical hospitality, transcendent worship, and engaged community**. Our call is to invite others along to experience the good news of God's love and justice, thereby growing disciples and changing lives through the Holy Spirit. Foundry cares for one another, creating an environment that welcomes all from the start and sees our community through all stages of life.

Imagining Our Impact:

- Foundry members regularly **share their faith** and love of Foundry, **inviting others** to participate in worship, service, social events, and small groups.
- Every Foundry member is able to identify their role in the church, whether it be passing the plate, teaching a class, or serving on a ministry team.
- Foundry will continue to provide a **worship** experience that includes powerful music, challenging preaching, and prayerful support.
- Our physical space is visitor-friendly with welcoming signs, easy-to-access information about our ministries, and bright classrooms and spaces of fellowship.
- The **Foundry Care Team and Stephens Ministry** leaders are larger in numbers and will provide support in many forms, including the listening ear, prayer, visitation, meals and coordination of other resources.
- An **Establishing Connection Ministry Team** continues to develop new ways for Foundry to be a welcoming congregation and deepen the connection among the people of Foundry and its community.



Communities of Learning, Care, Service and Justice

Foundry is a big church that thrives on small communities. Everyone is invited to find their circle at Foundry: circles of learning, caring, justice, joy, and faith. Foundry groups, classes, and small groups are places where all can **learn, grow, fellowship**, and be in relationship with others.

Imagining Our Impact:

- We offer an increasing diversity of gatherings that include **small groups, intellectually challenging classes, and opportunities for fellowship**.
- More members are engaged in at least one circle and explore new options as their lives, interests, and spiritual needs change.
- **Online programming** allows community members to see all available groups and express interest in joining easily. New offerings are added to respond to member interests and inspirations.
- **A Small Groups Support Team** engages a large, diverse group of lay leaders to suggest new ideas, support new members, and ensure there are always circles available to meet the community's needs. These leaders are supported with **training, resources, and care** to ensure their commitment is meaningful and valued.
- We foster a **culture of transformation**, sharing testimonials and celebrating milestones within the groups.



Children, Youth, and Their Families

Family Ministries is a visible, vibrant, and valued cornerstone of life at Foundry that allows children and youth the space to **explore their developing faith** and supports families through all stages of life. We will support a growing number of children, youth and their families, engaging them fully in congregational life.

Imagining Our Impact:

- Children and youth are **increasingly visible, vital participants** in service and mission-work, educational opportunities like Sunday School, and worship. They serve in **leadership** roles alongside adults and have a voice in the ministries of the church.
- Milestones for children and youth are an established tradition in the life of Foundry including Baptism, receiving a Bible in 3rd grade, confirmation, graduation, and the college/post-high school cookie ministry.
- Families are supported along the way, including through tough and challenging seasons, as they seek **fellowship and support** from other Foundry members invested in the lives of their children.
- A larger, more robust, **intergenerational team of lay leaders**, parents and non-parents alike, lead the activities that help children and youth feel safe, connected, and beloved.
- Physical spaces at Foundry readily make room for children and families with bright, engaging signs, age-appropriate furniture and materials, and easy-to-find information on how to engage with opportunities for children and youth.



Service and Social Justice

At Foundry, social justice and demonstrating God's love for the world are central to our experience together. Our community offers opportunities for **service and direct aid** that provide immediate, life-affirming help for those in need, as well as **advocacy opportunities** to create the just, peaceful, and loving world we seek.

Imagining Our Impact:

- A newly-established **Center for Social Justice** serves as a hub for service, direct aid, and advocacy work. The Center will provide opportunities to convene, learn from, teach, and equip congregations already engaged in this work and those who are just beginning.
- Advocacy campaigns continue to be a force for change in our city, nation, and world, empowering the Foundry community to speak out in the name of mercy and justice.
- Significant **educational opportunities** are offered, both for members of the Foundry community and for other churches, movements, and organizations to learn about our integrated approach to advocacy and direct aid.
- We support the important work of the **Religion and Racial Justice Committee** and a increasing number of people are engaged.
- We use Foundry's voice in our church, on the street, and online to share **God's vision for service and social justice** and lifting up the prophetic voice of our Senior Pastor and other Foundry leaders.



How We Got Here

Foundry's strategic vision is the result of two years of small group meetings, working groups focused on our key priorities, deep engagement by the Foundry Board, and the work of over 100 members of the Foundry community. We are grateful for all whose insights impacted this vision.



Foundry

United Methodist Church

Washington, D.C.

1500 16th St. NW

Join Us

We need you and your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness to help us bring this vision to reality.

Groups are forming to set specific goals, chart new ways of ministry, and execute the ideas outlined in our vision. We will update the Foundry community regularly to share our progress and impact.

If you see yourself in one of the ministries described here, get involved. If you are inspired by an idea, give of your prayers or financial resources to make it possible. If you see someone who could experience God's love through this vision, invite them along.

Together, we will build the bright hope for tomorrow to carry Foundry into our next decade of ministry.

To get involved or learn more, visit
foundryumc.org/strategicvision



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