



TERRAFORMA CONNECTIONS PATHWAY

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CONNECTIONS STEP 1 – WELCOME HOME

OUR STORY

Justin Ulrich became a pastor because once he got his first taste of teaching others about Jesus he was hooked and couldn't imagine doing anything else. He loves God and loves people, so the local church is the perfect place for those two passions to come together.

Terraforma started with a gathering in the Ulrich's basement in 2018, where friends gathered together to dream about a new church in Northern Virginia. Their hearts were awakened by the dream of a church that would not only gather people together to grow closer to Jesus, but would also scatter them out on mission to build God's Kingdom and impact the world. A handful of people committed to this vision and Terraforma Church was born.

Today, we are growing movement of Jesus followers who live, learn, and work all throughout Northern Virginia, living on mission for God's Kingdom as we love and serve our neighbors.

Terraforma is driven by a simple vision: to bring heaven to earth. We dream of pushing our impact outside the lines of our Sunday gathering, scattering together to bring beauty everywhere we go and working for the betterment of all.

Our hope for you here is that you will find Terraforma to be a welcoming and inspiring place for you and your friends to discover the life-giving significance of being part of the Jesus movement. Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, we are glad you've found us.

OUR PRAYER FOR YOU:

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people."

EPHESIANS 1:17-18

"I ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory—to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing Him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is He is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life He has for His followers."

EPHESIANS 1:17-19 MSG

OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY CONSISTS OF 4 STEPS:

1. _____ -

We are convinced if you want to know what God is like, you should look carefully at the person of Jesus. If you want to know what God wants from us, you should listen carefully to the message of Jesus.

2. _____ -

We build people because we believe that redeemed people can and will build a better world. Your whole life matters to God, and so your whole story matters to Terraforma.

3. _____ -

We want to help you find your place in God's unfolding story.

4. _____ -

We recognize that all people can grow in influence so we do what we can to activate their gifts, maximize their potential, and release them to build God's Kingdom in every possible way.

OUR APPROACH -

WE GATHER TO GROW AND SCATTER TO SERVE

We Gather to Grow – The Church is a living community that supports and encourages everyone to take their next step in spiritual growth.

1. _____ – *Jesus alone can heal our lives and redeem our stories, so we will do all we can to make Him known. We work hard at Terraforma to communicate the truth of Jesus in a way that everyone can understand. Sundays at Terraforma are about helping people know Jesus.*
2. _____ – *We value discipleship in community. We think people grow better in circles than in rows, so we invite everyone to join a circle of Jesus followers as they align their lives in apprenticeship to Jesus.*

We Scatter to Serve – We carry the blessing of Jesus out of our gatherings and into our neighborhoods, loving people where they are.

1. _____ – *Terraforma empowers and releases people to love our world, starting with our neighbors and including all in our circle of influence. We practice this by scattering to serve our community every time a month has a 5th Sunday.*
2. _____ – *We think that everyone has unique gifts, experiences, stories, and skills that can be used to help others. Terraforma wouldn't function without the involvement and investment of many people just like you. But serving on a ministry team is more than something we want from you; our first priority is what we want FOR you. We want you to come fully alive, to become the masterpiece that Jesus knows you are, and to put your unique gifts and passions to work for the sake of God's Kingdom.*
3. _____ – *We believe that all followers of Jesus have been entrusted with His mission. We strive to be a permission-giving, limit-lifting, future-dreaming movement that raises up leaders, multiplies disciples, and launches other churches and Kingdom initiatives in the marketplace.*

OUR STRUCTURE

GOVERNMENT

As you consider investing your heart, time, family, and finances into the life of a church, it is important for you to feel confident in the church leadership. Our goal in sharing the details of Terraforma Church's government is that you will understand that our church is structured to support the values of integrity, accountability, and spiritual leadership.

Our Government has four groups of leaders:

1. _____ by _____.

The Lead Pastor leads the Staff Team. This team oversees the day-to-day operations of the church. Terraforma's Staff Team serves the congregation and is responsible for the development of the spiritual life of the church and its programs.

Terraforma's current staff are:

2. _____ by _____.

The Elders are respected members of the congregation who love Terraforma Church and are responsible for the congregation's spiritual health. They focus on discipleship, spiritual growth, and prayerfully discerning God's direction with the Pastor. This group collectively operates as a plurality in humility, love, and mutual submission. Issues of doctrine, protecting church unity, and pastoral care are examples of the spiritual care provided by the elders.

Terraforma's current elders are:

3. _____ by _____.

Trustees are respected members of our congregation that love Terraforma and serve by safeguarding our church’s finances. The Trustees are responsible for the financial well being of Terraforma Church. They are responsible for setting budgets, reviewing contracts, and all business and infrastructure needs for the church. The chair of the Trustees is the Treasurer.

Terraforma’s current trustees are:

4. _____ by _____.

The Overseers are a group of outside ministry professionals that love Terraforma Church and its pastor and have agreed to provide oversight and accountability for the pastor. They meet regularly with the pastor to evaluate his performance and to make sure he stays healthy. **Additionally, they might be called upon to help in accountability or correction matters relating to the Lead Pastor, if requested to do so by the Staff, Elders, or Trustees.** A member of the Overseer Board will speak at Terraforma at least once a year.

Terraforma’s current overseers are:

GIVING

Terraforma's operating budget comes entirely from the generous giving of the congregation. Many of our members give a regular percentage of their income to the support of the church. Giving is one of the central themes of scripture, and so we celebrate the opportunity to give to God's work through the local church.

Our goal with money is to be a blessing to the world as God blesses us.

As we openly share the honesty, integrity, and spiritual values that guide the financial practices of Terraforma Church, we believe people can focus on what God is calling them to give and trust that He is leading our church to steward it well. ***Our financial practices include:***

TRANSPARENCY – *we are open and honest with our budgets and our books.*

ACCOUNTABILITY – *we have strict policies in place around receiving, spending, and accounting for all resources entrusted to us.*

GENEROSITY – *we give a percentage of our budget to missional expressions of God's work through our Scatter Partners and other initiatives.*

The scriptural model for giving is:

PLANNED – *we hope your giving is reflected in your budget, and that you plan to give to God's work.*

PRIORITIZED – *we practice giving off the top.*

PROPORTIONAL – *our giving increases as our income increases.*

JOYFUL – *the most important element of giving is what happens in our hearts.*

WORSHIPFUL – *at Terraforma, we want you to give to God out of gratitude, an act of worship that declares to God: "I trust you with my material needs."*

Ways to Give:

1. Terraforma App
2. Cash or Check in one of our services
3. Online - terraforma.church/give
4. You can also give donations of stock, see our website for details

Terraforma is a registered 501c3 non-profit.

OUR FUTURE –

We hope Terraforma is a place you will call home. If this isn't the church for you, our sincere hope is to help you find the one that is. Get involved somewhere, go all-in, and join Jesus as He builds God's Kingdom! We are looking forward to an amazing future, where many people will be drawn to gather with us to grow and sent out to scatter to serve our world in love. We hope you'll join us to see this dream become reality.

PARTNERSHIP COVENANT:

This is what it means to come alongside Terraforma:

1. Commit to learn and live our unique ethos.

Our Partners listen carefully to learn the unique DNA of Terraforma. We are weird for a reason! Keep your ears open and your heart soft as you learn the culture of our church and its ministry. Commit to protecting the unity of our church by acting in love toward all.

2. Participate actively in our community.

Our Partners actively participate in our community by regularly attending our services, joining a group, and finding a place to serve. Our Partners give regularly and generously to Terraforma's vision. Commit to sharing the responsibility of our church by getting involved.

3. Join us on mission.

Our Partners are committed to Scatter and Serve our community in love. Terraformers don't take our 5th Sunday scatter weeks to sleep in, we are excited to get into our community to love and serve! Our Partners see themselves as sent on mission for God's Kingdom in every sphere of life! Commit to discovering your gifts and talents and putting them to work for God's Kingdom.

Next Steps for you can take today:

Install the Terraforma App to stay connected to the movement

Get into REALM, our church management software for communication and event registrations

Find a COMMUNITY GROUP that works for you.

Find a MINISTRY TEAM where you can serve.

APPENDIX:

TERRAFORMA DOCTRINE

OUR APPROACH TO THEOLOGY AND DOCTRINE:

Every movement has shared convictions at its core, beliefs that shape ethos and guide behavior. We find ancient creeds of the church particularly helpful in articulating the essence of orthodoxy (especially the Apostle's Creed and the Nicene Creed). These creeds connect us with the long history of Christian faith. As a community, we are concerned not only with what the creed meant in the early centuries but also its ongoing importance and relevance for faith and practice today.

As we recognize the importance of such guiding principles, we also recognize the diversity of beliefs on finer points of doctrine held by followers of the Jesus Way throughout time. This means we make space for disagreement in our community, and we take a posture of humility and generosity as we dialogue. We are committed to making sure that what matters most gets the greatest emphasis and preventing peripheral matters from distracting and dividing our community. We value conversation above conclusions, listening above lists, and dialogue over debate.

We approach theology as an ongoing conversation with God, Scripture, each other, and historic perspectives as we seek to follow Jesus authentically. Theology happens best in humble dialogue, where questions are encouraged. When Jesus was asked about the bottom line of correct belief, his summary came down to one word: LOVE (Matthew 22:37-40). The Jesus Way is the strong center of our movement and fuels our commitment to loving God and loving people. Our shared love for Jesus can hold us together despite our differences. On disputable matters, our approach is conversational, inquisitive, and accepting (This is what Paul taught in Romans 14). This means we don't all believe the exact same thing on every issue, but we remain committed to the relationship. In other words, there is room at the table for everyone who wants a seat.

We also recognize that the way we live, love, and behave is far more important than the words we put on a webpage or a statement of faith. So we invite you to experience our beliefs in action as we live into the story God is writing in our community. We want to exhibit and proclaim the Gospel in the world through our love and service - to work for the common good.

Humbly seeking Jesus,

The Elders of Terraforma Church

THE ESSENTIALS:

Scripture:

We believe God inspired the human authors of Scripture by His Spirit to communicate His message of redemption and revelation. The Scriptures are the authoritative and trustworthy record of divine self-disclosure. We believe this collection of stories, songs, poems, letters, histories, and moral codes weave together to form a complete story from first creation to new creation. With the help of the Spirit, we seek to interpret, contextualize, and live out this story even today.

God:

We believe in one eternal and perfect God, revealed in the three persons of the trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is perfect in love and is eager to be known and experienced by all, desiring both loyalty and love from all people. God has revealed himself as a loving Father that desires the best for His children.

Jesus:

We believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God, co-equal with the Father and the Spirit. Jesus entered the human story in the incarnation, becoming fully human and living a life without sin. His death on a cross was the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people. He rose from the dead to demonstrate His power over sin and death and to reconcile all people to God and free them from the power of sin. We look forward to His return where he will consummate the building of His Kingdom.

The Holy Spirit:

We believe the Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son. The Spirit is active and present in the world guiding, empowering, and correcting God's children. The Holy Spirit enables people in their search for God, revealing truth, convicting sin, and transforming lives.

Humanity:

We believe that all people bear the Image of God and have inherent dignity and immense value, regardless of age, socio-economic status, gender, sexuality, race and ethnicity. People were created to have fellowship with God but became alienated in that relationship through sin. We believe that Jesus is reconciling people to God, to each other, and to all creation. We believe that the only answer to the problem of sin is redemption through faith in Jesus.

Sin:

We believe that sin began and continues as willful rebellion against God and rejection of relationship with God. We believe that sin is the source of discord, corruption, and decay that effects all creation. Sin disrupts harmony with God and erodes all human relationships. Jesus came to give His followers abundant and overflowing life, and to rescue them from the power of sin as well as from sin's penalty.

The Church:

We believe the Church is the global gathering of Christ Followers, called to be hands and feet of Jesus in the world. Though it has multitudes of diverse expressions, the Church consists of all who have a relationship with Jesus. The primary purpose of the Church is to advance the Kingdom of God. The Church has a clear scriptural mandate to look beyond its own community to the neighborhood, the nation, and the world as a whole in a posture of love and service. Mission is not a program in the church but an essential identity of the Church. The Church is the missionary people of God sent into all of life to accomplish His purposes.

The Kingdom of God:

The Kingdom of God is any place or person where the rule and reign of Jesus Christ is expressed and experienced. We believe Jesus inaugurated the Kingdom of God in His bodily ministry on the earth and continues to establish it by the Spirit through the Church today. We live in between the inauguration and completion of The Kingdom. God's Kingdom exists eternally in heaven and finds reflection on earth. As God's children, we have been invited to envision and establish God's Kingdom on the earth, building a better future for all. The consummation of the Kingdom will be fulfilled when Jesus returns. Although we believe in eternal life with God, we don't focus on escaping to the afterlife. We see the reality of heaven as a motivating force to inspire us to actively build a better world here and now. This includes protecting and restoring the Earth and the value and dignity of life upon it.