

# CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL

## Vision and Goals

***The Cathedral Church of St. Paul is a house of prayer for all people.  
Our mission is to welcome, include and feed all at God's table.***

### ***St. Paul's Mission Statement***

*We believe that God is at the heart of St. Paul's, calling us to join God's work and mission in the world. It is our hope that the Vision and Goals below represent the deepening of this commitment. As we look to the future, we will proceed with faith, boldness and creativity along the pathways that God was already begun establishing for us, marking the unique ways that God is inviting us to be the Episcopal Cathedral and a vibrant congregation in downtown Boston over the next five years.*

*The implementation of the Vision and Goals will be planned in greater detail by the congregation, Cathedral Council and Cathedral Chapter, with ample opportunity for focusing, feedback, revisiting and renewal from year to year. It will take the gifts and insights of each of these groups – and so many others – to fulfill God's dream for our congregation and community.*

## **THE VISION**

In response to God's call and dependent upon God's grace, we will be an even more radically welcoming community of faith, inviting all people into liberating, healing relationship with the living God and each other through the proclamation of the Gospel.

We will offer to God worship that reflects and draws on the diversity of our community and the riches of our Anglican tradition. To fully accommodate these diverse patterns of worship and community gatherings, we will renew and renovate our interior and exterior space.

We will nurture authentic connections across boundaries, changing and being changed by all those who gather and worship at St. Paul's. Fed at Christ's table, we will become a fearless community of disciples engaged in intentional Christian formation, discernment and witness.

As Jesus sent the disciples into the world two by two, God calls us into relationships that forward God's reign of justice and compassion. We will reach out and develop mutual, transforming partnerships to serve God's mission in Boston, the diocese and the global Anglican Communion.

## **THE GOALS**

### **Renew Worship and Space**

**We will renovate the interior worship space and church exterior in order to ...**

- accommodate large gatherings (500+ people) while providing the Sunday congregation a worship space that is connective, intimate and prayerful.
- allow greater flexibility for a variety of gatherings: special creative services, meetings, performances, forums and discussions, both for ourselves and our affiliated congregations (Boston Episcopal Chinese Ministry, ecclesia ministries and the Muslim community), as well as community and educational groups, and the creative arts community of Greater Boston.
- make the exterior and interior interesting, attractive and safe.

### **We will renew our worship so that it ...**

- becomes more participatory, compelling, and creative, and thus helps us deepen our faith and grow in our commitment to God.
- honors our Anglican tradition while reflecting the diversity of experiences, voices and traditions of the entire congregation, including long-time members, new members, and those people on the margins of society who worship with us but may or may not think of themselves as members.
- welcomes people throughout the week with services that link to the specific hopes and spiritual needs of groups in our surrounding community.
- invites participation by those who may feel the church does not speak to them, making our worship more genuinely evangelical.

### **Live Out Transformative Christian Practice**

#### **We will inaugurate a Fellowship of St. Paul which will ...**

- provide a means for individuals who seek to be intentional about their prayer life, daily practice and way of life to deepen their relationship with God, to enable their diverse ministries and to strengthen their evangelical witness, using the example and insights of our patron saint, Paul.
- establish a community of disciples (both within and beyond the Cathedral) who can support and encourage one another in these practices.
- provide a way for Episcopalians throughout the diocese to have a meaningful connection to the Cathedral.

#### **We will establish a comprehensive Christian formation program which will ...**

- provide formation for all ages that is appropriate, consistent and nurtures the development of the whole person: mind, body and soul.
- create and grow small groups that foster learning, discipleship and community formation.
- develop our individual and congregational ability and commitment to dismantle systems of oppression in our church, in our communities and beyond.
- reach out to people mid-week, as well as on Sunday.
- serve the formation needs of particular groups, e.g. parents of young children, teenagers, etc.

### **Forge Partnerships for Mission and Witness**

#### **We will develop mutual relationships with these existing and new ministry partners:**

##### ***existing partnerships***

- Boston Episcopal Chinese Ministry
- ecclesia ministries
- the Muslim community
- Monday Lunch Program partner congregations

##### ***new partnerships***

- local institutions of higher education
- local arts organizations
- downtown churches (Episcopal and other denominations)
- Episcopal City Mission (ECM)
- the State House and City Hall
- Diocesan Jubilee Ministries in Africa

#### **Together with our ministry partners, we will be well equipped to ...**

- strengthen our ongoing ministry with hungry and homeless people.
- address a particular need among adolescents and teens in the Cathedral congregation and in our surrounding community.
- provide a compelling Christian witness on specific justice issues.
- become a more visible civic gathering place.
- support our political leaders in their vocations.
- engage with an African church or organization in the Anglican Communion around a common concern.