St. Columba's is committed to five core priorities

Strengthen Community | Practice Faith | Become Anti-racist | Embrace Our World | Build Capacity

Strengthen Community

We will strengthen the bonds of our intergenerational community by emphasizing fellowship in our ministries, programs, and parish life. We will be open and welcoming, creating deeper engagement with one another as we journey inward and extend ourselves outward to be God's hands in the world.

We will:
Continue our existing ministries and programs, leaning into the strategic plan to carefully inform decision making about new investments in time and resources.

Establish on-ramps and strengthen pathways to connection amongst our community, through ministries, programs, transformative faith experiences, and a deeper religious practice.

Work with parishioners, ministries, and our partners to strengthen fellowship, build community, have fun together, and maintain open hearts and doors to all people in celebration of God's love.

Enhance opportunities to integrate children, youth, and their families into our ministries and programs, building on our intergenerational community.

Strengthen the connections between the Nursery School and Church communities for mutual vitality, especially as a step toward full inclusion of neuro-divergent learners and their families.

Establish and nurture a culture for enriching and replenishing leadership.

Increase accessibility and presentation of our physical space to offer a warm and inviting place for ourselves, our neighbors, and the wider community.

Practice Faith

We affirm our commitment to spiritual growth and formation by building on the strengths of our current worship and f ormation programming.

We will:
Proclaim and celebrate God's love through excellence in our worship, music, programming, ministries, and outreach.

Follow Presiding Bishop Curry's call to reclaim Christianity as a faith that is grounded in love, compassion, and justice.

Equip parishioners of all ages to embrace discipleship in daily life.

Invite children, youth, and adults to participate actively in our ministries and to develop into a deeper relationship with God.

Create space for programs of worship and fellowship that allow parishioners to grow together spiritually outside the structure of traditional Sunday services.

Revive our series of "faith stories" and explore ways to invite expressions of vulnerability and spiritual curiosity.

Be a place of sanctuary, sabbath, and rest that all may dwell in the love of God and find peace to cultivate the interior life of our souls.

Leverage our existing investments in broadcast technology and social media to build and sustain a faith community beyond our walls.

Become Anti-Racist

We commit to becoming an anti-racist church – that is, to commit and engage across the entire parish in dismantling racism in ourselves, in our church, and in our society. This flows from our Baptismal Covenant; it is a life-long commitment and vital practice, inseparable from our identity as children of God and followers of Christ Jesus.

We will:
Pray together each week for God's wisdom, strength, and grace in pursuit of justice.

Integrate antiracism into faith development for all ages and into St. Columba's programs and ministries.

Deepen our collective understanding of the ways racism is maintained in our society and our local
history, including the ways St. Columba's was and is shaped and influenced by racist practices.

Assess St. Columba's governing policies, structures, and practices to ensure these are consistent with our anti-racist intentions.

Be better equipped to identify and have conversations about issues of racism.

Welcome and embrace all people and build long-term partnerships in the broader community of the Washington DC region.

Make a positive difference in the lives of others. Continually invite one another into this work and commit to hold ourselves accountable to live our values and reflect the Beloved Community.

Build an understanding of the church's role in supporting and reflecting structures of racism, facilitating repentance, and making reparations for past wrongs through our ministries, service, and giving.

Embrace our World

As a beacon of God's justice and love, we are called to embrace our city and the world by building relationships with neighbors across the divides of race, culture, income, faith, and neighborhood, by advocating for systemic change, and by engaging in acts of service. We believe that meaningful engagement with people with whom we share our city and our world, paying careful attention to our anti-racist commitment, is a compelling way to live out Christ's first commandment and to share the good news of God's love.

We will:
Ally with values-aligned organizations, particularly those that center the voices of marginalized people in our community, so that we may listen deeply and align our engagement to support their priorities.

Invest in internal infrastructure and partnerships to harness and leverage the talents and interests of the parish in our advocacy efforts and service to others.

Create new opportunities to grow spiritually and to draw us closer to God and one another through serving others and working for systemic change.

Pursue a comprehensive and integrated parish-wide initiative around family homelessness that addresses underlying structural causes, provides parishioners different ways to engage, and establishes long-term relationships with families and persons in their community and with our partners.

Build relationships with our neighbors and the wider community to pursue bold action toward systemic change that addresses underlying inequities in our society and creates "The Beloved Community".

Recognize that God's world encompasses the natural world, including plants, animals, and resources, and that we are called to foster, share, and preserve God's beautiful and generous creation.

Build Capacity

Achieving the ambitious goals to which we are called will require additional capacity within our staff and across our congregation. We must be intentional about securing the additional resources we need and equipping ourselves to pursue even greater opportunities for impact in the future.
To ensure that the church is the catalyst for peace and justice we need it to be.

We will:
Routinely realign staff resources to meet strategic priorities.

Foster a culture of support for our financial health throughout the year and not just during the annual pledge campaign.

Increase pledge revenue at a rate that keeps up with increases in expenses to ensure we have the resources to fund our operating budget.

Build an endowment to secure our financial future in part by significantly increasing membership in the Iona Society, a planned giving initiative.

Explore and develop additional revenue streams. Develop a comprehensive master plan for our campus and facilities that identifies how we can best use these assets to support our mission.

Take every property repair or improvement as an occasion to further our commitment to care for God's creation.

Conduct a capital campaign in conjunction with our 150th anniversary to fund our future priorities. Improve the use and adoption of technology to advance worship, operations, and programming.

St. Columba's Episcopal Church is an inclusive Christian community of all ages that welcomes one and all, encourages spiritual curiosity, celebrates children and youth, and embraces the world in the spirit of God's justice and love.

St. Columba's Episcopal Church
4201 Albemarle Street NW
Washington DC 20016

Our Values

Our values inform our parish life, guide us in our mission, and lead us to realize our vision for the future. We are:

Open-hearted
Whoever you are, wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome at St. Columba's.

Growing in Faith
We are growing in Christ's love through worship, song, study, prayer, and celebration.

Grateful Stewards
We approach our relationships and ministries with integrity and humility, and we preserve, protect, and restore God's creation and all resources entrusted to our care.

Innovative
We are forward-looking and creative, as we seek to embody and share God's love in a changing world.

Called to Bold Action
We practice Christianity to create a just society, seeking allies and nurturing partnerships to serve our neighborhood, our city, and the world.

ST. COLUMBA'S

We are a church on a mission to

LIVE GOD'S LOVE

Mission and Vision 2023-26