



Welcome Home

Transform Church



A note from *Pastor Mark*

What an exciting time to be a part of what God is doing at Transform Church! When we launched in October of 2019 no one could have predicted what would happen-Covid disruption, multiple location changes, rapid growth and now the chance to own our own property. That's my favorite part about the story-clearly God is doing something that we did not orchestrate. In a time when most churches have settled into 70% of their pre-covid attendance we have grown by over 100%! In a time of division and uncertainty we have seen that the harvest is still plentiful (*Matt. 9:37*) as over 60 people have come to Christ and 26 people have been baptized since our launch. And by God's grace we're on the cusp of owning our own building on 34 acres of prime property.

Since day one we've been focused on helping people find hope in Jesus and transformation in life. Although we believe this can be accomplished anywhere God wants to, we have seen the blessing of God in our current location for more than two years and believe He has clearly opened the door for us to put down roots and make this our permanent home. Because of God's faithfulness over the last three years, we are now looking to the future of Transform by launching the Welcome Home campaign.





Welcome *Home*

In Luke 15 Jesus tells one of his most recognized stories that has been known for centuries as The Story of the Prodigal Son. This particular passage was used at our Grand Opening in 2019. Little did we know that it would be a predictor of things to come. Although the father's response in the story to the younger brother in welcoming him home after he wrecked his life in rebellion is what made this story famous, Jesus is actually telling the story to the older brother types. The older brother didn't rebel against his father but rather obeyed. However, at the end of the story we find out that he didn't obey because he loved the father-he just wanted what the father could give him. One brother tried rebellion; one brother tried religion. Neither of which are the gospel.

What we've seen at Transform in the last three years is a beautiful mix of those that are far from God coming to know him and finding forgiveness alongside those that have been in church their whole life finding their own need for a Savior-just in a different way. The father in the story extends the invitation to both brothers and by extension all of us, as he welcomes us home.





History of *Transform Church*

Our history, though brief, is a testimony to God's many blessings over the last three years. There are factors out of our control that have worked in our favor. There have been people that have sacrificed and given their time, talent and treasure to advance the mission. But at the end of the day, the numbers are just a visible outworking of God's providence to take Transform from nothing to what it is today.

June 2019 | The Transform Church launch team begins to take shape with 97 kids and adults.

October 2019 | We launch with 300 people in attendance. In the fall of 2020, we settle around 175 people.

March 2020 | We go fully online due to Covid-19.

June 2020 | We start gathering in person at Sunshine Park in Andover for outdoor services.

September 2020 | At the offer of Pastor Steve Gahagen, we start meeting at Prairie Oak Church.

March 2021 | Discussion began with Prairie Oak about buying or leasing the building.

May 2021 | We host our first Compassion International Weekend and together sponsor 66 children.

October 2021 | We have 447 people in attendance for our second birthday.

April 2022 | Our average weekly attendance hits 350 people with 100 kids in 0-5th grade.

June 2022 | We finish our third fiscal year at \$555,000 income.

July 2022 | 26 people have been baptized and over 60 people have made decisions for Christ.

August 2022 | We have given away \$98,000 to our partner ministries.

September 2022 | We move to two services, with weekly attendance surpassing 400.





The Challenge

If we don't act on the opportunity that's been given to us at Prairie Oak, we will likely end up in a portable facility raising money for the next six years. We believe set-up/tear-down is a great option for new church plants. We, however, have some challenges with going back to a portable scenario.

1

Covid has changed the relationship with public school facilities. When you rent a public space you play by their rules-that includes the opportunity to meet, the requirement of masks and some day a potential conflict with what is preached and believed.

2

Transform is twice the size it was when we left Oak View Middle School. Even at two services, we will nearly max out the cafeteria and kid spaces-limiting the number of people that can visit and hear the gospel.

3

Portable churches must spend all of their energy and resources setting up and tearing down a space they don't own while most of the people in the community don't know they exist the other six days of the week. Portable churches have a very difficult time doing any ministry other than Sunday mornings and home groups (*i.e. Men's, Women's and Youth Ministry*).

The Opportunity

After 18 months of discussion, Prairie Oak Community Church and the Nazarene Denomination have decided to sell the building. They have given us the opportunity to purchase without it being listed by an agent or put out for competitive bids! This is a huge answer to prayer and a very rare opportunity for a three-year-old church: giving us the space to grow, a central location for ministry and a recognizable landmark within the community.

The Building

Prairie Oak Community Church was built in 1995 on 34 acres. For over twenty years, they focused on reaching the community for Christ and building up the next generation. In the last two years, since Transform has been renting the building, we have continued to build on and expand that legacy under our own name but still on the same team.

23,000

square feet

300

seat auditorium

5

classrooms

34

acres of land

1

indoor playland

16,000

cars passing by



The Cost

Through a series of offers and counter-offers Prairie Oak has agreed to sell the building to Transform Church for 2.35 million dollars. To put this in perspective, our sister church in Blaine just built a brand new 25,000 square foot building on 8 acres of land for 5.5 million dollars. Our bank has agreed to lend us up to 2 million dollars, leaving us with \$500,000 to raise to secure the mortgage and make some immediate updates.

Updating the facility

Although the building is in great shape structurally, there has been a lot of delayed maintenance over the last few years. Some immediate updates are needed including HVAC units, roof repairs and plumbing. Some changes will be cosmetic including paint and carpet. Some changes are for visibility-including Transform signage in three locations on the property. Although massive dollar amounts could be spent on the building, we estimate we could do what is needed for \$150,000 until a more permanent addition is needed in the future.



What's *my part*

We are asking everyone who loves Transform Church to give sacrificially toward this project. Just as 97 adults and children sacrificially launched Transform in 2019, our next step is to establish a permanent home for Transform. We are asking you to participate in three critical ways:

1

Pray

The most important thing you can do is pray. Pray about how God wants to work through you during the Welcome Home campaign. Pray for things to keep coming into place as we look to purchase the building. Pray that Transform continues the mission God has called us to no matter where the future takes us.

2

Engage

It matters now more than ever that you get actively involved at Transform. Make it a priority to get to church and to serve wherever possible so that we remain healthy as we continue to reach new people.

3

Give

How is it going to be possible for a church of our size to raise \$500,000 in addition to our General Fund? Because we all have unique giving capabilities, we cannot simply divide the total needed by the number of families in our church.

How is this *possible*?

# of Gifts Needed	Gift Amount	Cumulative Total
1	\$100,000	\$100,000
2	\$50,000	\$200,000
3	\$30,000	\$290,000
4	\$15,000	\$350,000
5	\$10,000	\$400,000
8	\$5,000	\$440,000
10	\$3,000	\$470,000
12	\$1,000	\$482,000
Many	Many	\$500,000

When and *how do I give?*

At the end of the day, we're not looking for building builders but for kingdom builders. Jesus didn't die for a building; he died for people that have no hope apart from Him. Jesus was radically generous when he went to the cross, and we respond by being radically generous. We are asking for 100% participation to make this possible. No gift is too small. There are three ways you can give.

1

Online

You can set up recurring giving or make one-time gifts via the Transform website at transform.tc or church center app. When online you will need to select the "fund" you wish to give to. Make sure you select the *Welcome Home* fund for campaign gifts.

2

Sunday Offerings

Feel free to drop cash or checks into the giving kiosks on a Sunday morning. In order to ensure they end up in the proper fund please put cash in an envelope clearly labeled *Welcome Home*. For checks, simply write *Welcome Home* in the memo line.

3

Mail In

Checks can be sent to our mailing address at:

Transform Church
P.O. Box 128
Andover MN, 55304.

Make sure your check is clearly marked for the *Welcome Home* campaign.

Questions you might be asking

Will we run out of space almost right away?

In the current facility, we can grow to 600 at two services and 900 at three services. Once we have filled up two services completely and go to three we will be looking at expanding the building. What we have going for us is acreage. Most churches are limited on how they can expand, but there are lots of buildable acres on this property for building expansion and parking.

Who has been involved with developing this plan and for how long?

Pastor Mark started working on this in March of 2021 when Prairie Oak was searching for their next step. Pastor Ray Fritz of Connections Church and Pastor David Sorn of Renovation Church, who together helped to start Transform have been involved in every decision since that time. Two general contractors close to Transform leadership have been advising on the property, purchase agreements and counter offers. In addition to these individuals, the advisory team that is meeting and writing our constitution has been actively involved in the process.

