

A letter from Board of Elders of TNL Church regarding The Sacred Grace

Tonight, it's my honor to share some thoughts on behalf of the Board of Elders about the next phase in the journey for our family. The board has spent significant time discussing the vision for our family at TNL and praying for God's direction and wisdom as our community continues to evolve.

Over the past 4-5 years, the TNL family has evolved. We've moved from being a weekly production to being a more intimate family focused on growing together in our neighborhood here on South Broadway. As a board of elders, we are excited to see this next evolution of the TNL family into the first neighborhood church of The Sacred Grace.

This evolution of our family is what spurred the concept of The Sacred Grace. We feel that this expression of a church family in a neighborhood is unique and offers us an opportunity to introduce and re-introduce people to God and his church while growing more deeply together. As we have prayed over and visualized a neighborhood based, family of churches, we see a significantly deeper level of impact and shared values that continue to fan the flames of this excitement.

We see The Sacred Grace as a vehicle to provide neighborhood gatherings that are representative of that neighborhood, learning, following and serving God together. Each neighborhood church having it's own identity but a shared set of values that will bind not only these churches, but our city together.

As we launch The Sacred Grace over the next year, our vision is clear. We desire to see an expression of Sacred Grace and our family in every neighborhood in Denver. We know this won't happen in a year, maybe not even 10, but we are committed to growing this vision, one neighborhood at a time.

In any new endeavor, the vision can be crystal clear, but the path to get there a little muddy. While the board is committed to developing The Sacred Grace, we don't have "it all figured out".

Personally, I came to TNL about 14 years ago when I asked my (not yet at that time) wife out on a date on a Tuesday night and she said, "I have plans but you can join me." I figured if it was the only way I'd get to spend time with her, why not and that simple invitation by Molly and Jared telling me I was welcome here just as I am lead to my personal coming to faith, a 12 year marriage to a woman that makes me a better person everyday, countless friends and experiences that have shaped who I am.

In those 14 years, our family here at TNL has been through a lot. Some things worth celebrating, some that really hurt. I can say tonight that I've never been more excited and more confident that those experiences and the people that have been a part of our family have lead us to a defining moment in starting Sacred Grace and while we may not have the clearest path, the vision is His.

Our pastor team is working tirelessly and leaders from this community have already given countless hours of their time and energy to help craft the vision, but it truly does take our entire family to help make this happen. I encourage you to think tonight about your personal story and how that intersects with this family and growing into The Sacred Grace together. It will take everyone here contributing in a meaningful way to make this happen. We're honored to get to pursue that vision with this family, with each of you.

Matt Smith
on behalf of the Board of Elders of TNL Church