

Stewarding our Call: Rebuild and Renew

For over 20 years, we have followed God's call to be a thriving, diverse urban church sharing Christ's love and serving the needs of our local and global communities from our current location in South Allison Hill at 2217 Derry Street. With sacrifice from faithful members and many partners, we've transformed an old car dealership into a life-giving worship center that now houses our sanctuary for worship services and gathering spaces for children, youth, and adult ministries. This increased space has also allowed us to grow direct ministries to our neighborhood, including seasonal outreach events and our food pantry.

Our vision spurs us forward

In 2023 – 2024, the Harrisburg Brethren in Christ (HBIC) Next Steps Task Force led the church in conversations about fulfilling our call as we continued to grow and our impact expanded—including a space audit and resulting recommendations. Soon, a natural disaster would reshape these conversations, but not our congregation's commitment to advancing our vision.

A tornado of change

On August 9, 2024, our church building was severely damaged by a tornado that tore the roof off our building, devastated the upstairs, and flooded our staff's office space and the entire children's wing. When the storms subsided, only half our building was inhabitable. In a remarkable expression of God's provision, our sanctuary was spared, and we worshipped there together that Sunday.

God's provision and grace

Despite extraordinary challenges in recent years, we praise God that we continue to grow in ministries and momentum—a testament to the Holy Spirit's leading and our compelling vision.

Our pastors and congregation have summoned ingenuity and determination as we continue to sustain and grow our worship and ministries while coping with the drag on energy and resources of operating all worship and ministries out of the sanctuary, open area, and a complex array of multiple satellite locations.

This is not sustainable.

Stewarding our call: Rebuild and Renew.

This fall, Senior Pastor Hank Johnson led the church through a study of Ezra and Nehemiah: Return. Rebuild. Renew. Our continuing work together is rooted in this biblical call of stewardship and renewal.

Rebuilding our church.

Our church building reflects our focus on authentic relationships and ministry. As we rebuild the foundations of our physical building, we recommit to the spiritual foundations at our core.

- **Recommitting to our roots in Harrisburg.** We are committed to our literal neighbors and to living authentically together in community in the city of Harrisburg.
- **Recommitting to children and youth – our future leaders.** While rebuilding, we're securing our children's wing and adding classroom space. Our youth will once again be able to meet in a redesigned space of our building.
- **Recommitting to ministry.**
 - Worship and fellowship - We'll reclaim space for an enhanced welcome area and gathering spaces for critical ministries of our church.
 - Our pastoral ministry – Our staff will have offices with doors for counseling and focused ministry, instead of working remotely, in the sanctuary, or in their former cubicle workspaces.

Renewing our call

Our church building will empower our service and discipleship.

- **Renewing our ministries**
 - A new central open space upstairs will allow us to comfortably host several growing ministries, including **outreach ministries** and our **English Language Learning (ELL)** classes. – Our committed volunteers work with 64 students from 14 countries, who speak 11 languages.
 - **The Food Pantry team**—which serves an average of 170 families each month—will be relocated to a prominent location upstairs, freeing up more space for children’s ministries.
 - **New meeting spaces for small gatherings**—Two upstairs conference rooms will foster discipleship with meeting spaces for adult Sunday school classes and book study groups.
- **Renewing our stewardship**
 - Our church is a place of Shalom, bringing peace, reconciliation, and restoration to our members and community. Our building represents—through its simple spaces illuminated by stained-glass art—our ongoing stewardship of God’s gift of this gathering space for our multicultural congregation and all the ministries and impact that ripple out from this place.

Join us in Stewarding our Call

We invite you now to join us in this work together. The Stewarding our Call: Rebuild and Renew capital campaign is a three-year initiative of the Harrisburg Brethren in Christ Church to raise \$1.5 million to fully retire our church loan and empower our impact. This campaign represents more than financial freedom—it’s a spiritual invitation to rebuild our foundation and renew our capacity to serve our community, invest in future generations, and deepen our commitment to racial justice, outreach, missions, and discipleship.

We invite you to consider joining us as a partner to steward that call. Your support and prayers will help us continue to build on the work God has called us to here in our city, and in our world. Amid the world’s darkness and decay, help us to be a light God uses to guide people to thriving and life. In our increasingly multicultural world, join us in being intentional about welcoming and celebrating people from every nation, tribe, and tongue that God sends us – while also doing the hard work together of racial reconciliation and justice. Help us steward our call, as we steward our people, and share Christ’s love in our city, and to our world.