



# RESTORATION

## ANGLICAN CHURCH

October 24, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

You may have seen the reports that emerged yesterday in media outlets concerning the Archbishop of the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA), Steve Wood, including allegations of sexual harassment, financial misconduct, and bullying. These are serious matters. An inquiry is now underway to determine whether the allegations merit formal charges and a trial. Let us pray that the process will be conducted with both fairness and compassion for all parties, and that the result will be just. As followers of Christ, it's important that we be people who neither turn away from hard truths, nor rush to judgment. The history of the church is filled with moments where hidden things come to light and confidence in human leaders is tested. But this, too, can be part of God's refining work for the body of Christ, ushering in a season of repentance and renewal: "For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God" (1 Peter 4:17).

The ACNA is still a young institution, and it was formed out of a mixture of principle and reactivity. In various areas we continue to see its institutional and systemic immaturity being revealed. We can be honest about that without growing cynical. The task before us is not to condemn, but to do what we can to help the Church *grow up* into what it ought to be and claims to be. Anglicanism at its best has always understood the need for a balance of power and a restraint in leadership. The English Reformation retained bishops, but as pastors and not princes. They were to be servants of unity who have various layers of accountability to canon law, the other priests, and the laity. Anglican ecclesiology assumes human fallibility and does not idealize bishops, priests, or any office. Our trust is only in Jesus, the Good Shepherd and the Head of the Church.

At Restoration we are committed to living out this Christ-centered vision in our life together. Our community and organizational life is increasingly a shared responsibility between myself, our leadership team, part-time staff, lay leaders, and our community as a whole. We belong to the wider Anglican bodies of our Diocese, the ACNA, and GAFCON, but our witness and work in the world happens locally in our worship, teaching, service, and the slow work of walking in the way of Jesus. This feet-on-the-ground-mission is where real renewal begins—not from "the top", but rather from local churches that live out the gospel with integrity and grace. When Christian institutions or their leaders falter, it's easy to be frustrated and lose heart. But the better way is patient honesty and prayer. We can name what is broken without losing sight of what God continues to do. And he is doing much through faithful ACNA churches like ours. So, please be in prayer for all involved in this process: for truth, humility, justice, and restoration. Christ remains faithful to his people. Our confidence rests in him alone.

Do not hesitate to reach out. It is a joy to be your pastor.

Grace upon grace,  
The Rev. Todd Murden<sup>1</sup>  
Vicar, Church Planting Pastor

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<sup>1</sup> Much of this content is used with gratitude and permission from Rev Matt Wilcoxon of the Church of the Incarnation, Harrisonburg.