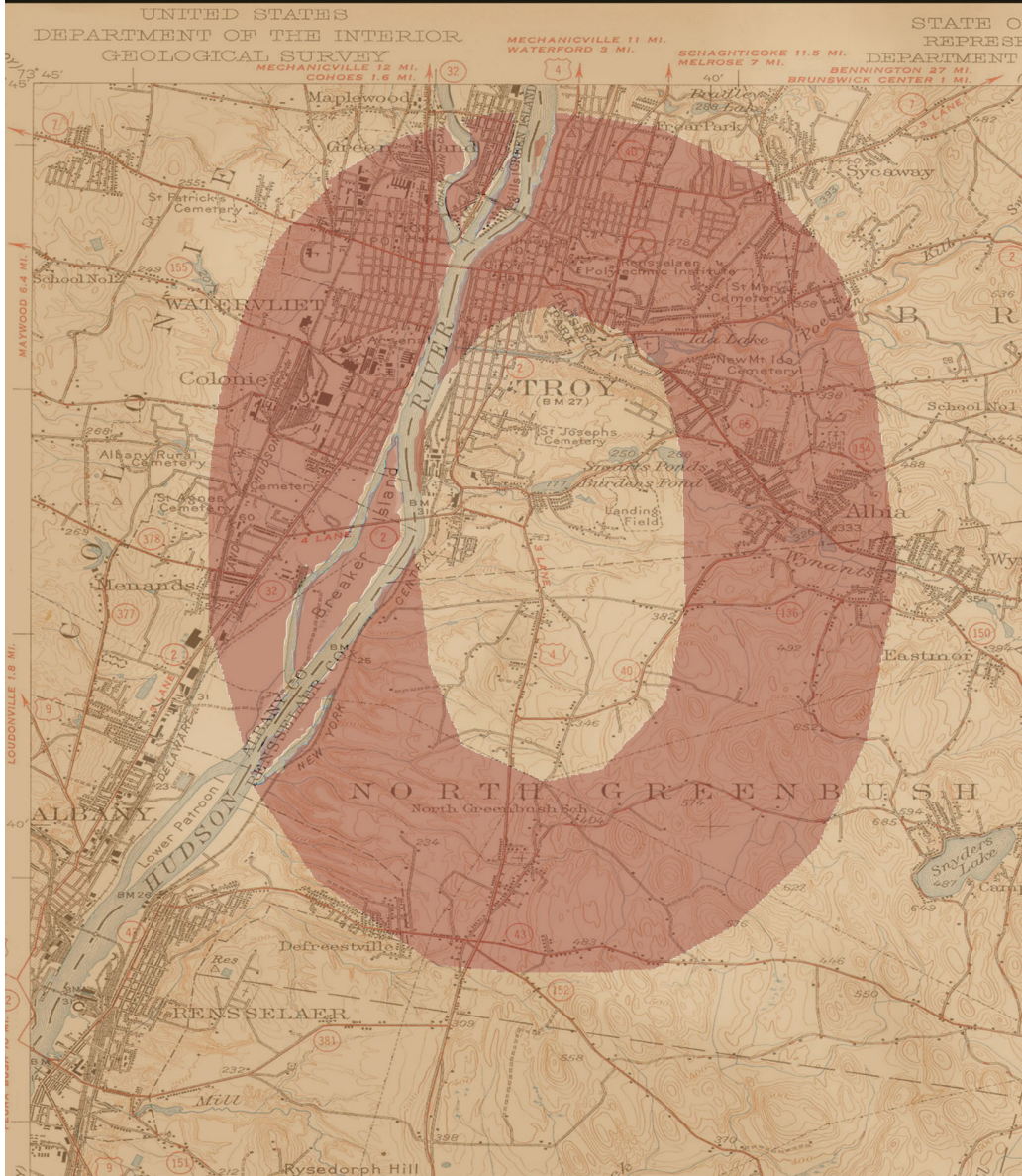


overview2009.



T **TERRA**
NOVA CHURCH

Terra Nova Church Overview2009 Bringing Truth to Time

Terra: noun [ter-uh]—earth, ground

Nova: noun [noh-vuh]—new, fresh

Church: noun [church]—a place for public worship, a gathering of believers

“Ever get that sense of vu ja de? the feeling that none of this has ever happened before.”

~ Comedian George Carlin

It has been a journey, an unexpected journey. We had some general idea of where we were going. There were beliefs that had come from the hard road of experience and from being, at the end of day, people who loved the Bible. We knew we wanted to be a church that found “fresh ground” in our own faith. We wanted to know more of Him. After all is said and done we know so little and it has mattered so much, of course we want to know more. We wanted to be in a place where churches—communities of Christians—are not always found. We believed we did not have to exist in the false dichotomy of living in a baptized bunker or being lost in a tsunami of paganism.

Some of us have changed so much that we could not have even imagined this day. For some fresh ground has meant

giving up all the claims that once helped us feel so secure in avoiding the truth that Jesus of Nazareth was God, that He got up from the dead, and that the things He said may actually be the most important things ever said in this world. For some the idea of church in a night club would have produced nothing but laughter. Yet for others, the marriage, family, and friendships that have given us the truest and deepest experiences of love have come from the church that meets in that unlikely place.

There is more to come. There is always fresh ground. We pause at moments to look back and measure how far we have come. We, like pilgrim saints of old, lay down monuments and remember what God has done. And then we move forward.

That is the core of every pilgrim after God. There is more to this journey. We are not alone. And as we move together into what is unknown—fresh territory to us—we come closer to being the men and women God has made us to become in the place that is nearer to home . . . nearer to Him. Together, we continue to become Terra Nova Church.

Pastor Ed Marcelle

On behalf of the Elders of Terra Nova Church



“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

From the very beginning, our goal at Terra Nova has been to bring truth to time—to express the ancient truths of Christ in a way that is both culturally relevant and theologically accurate. Our model in this endeavor is the incarnation. Jesus entered humanity at a specific point in time and lived with his people. Quite literally, Jesus *tabernacled* among them. By no accident does this term call to mind the tabernacle of the Old Testament, the place where God’s glory dwelled as the Israelites sojourned along the arduous path to the promised land.

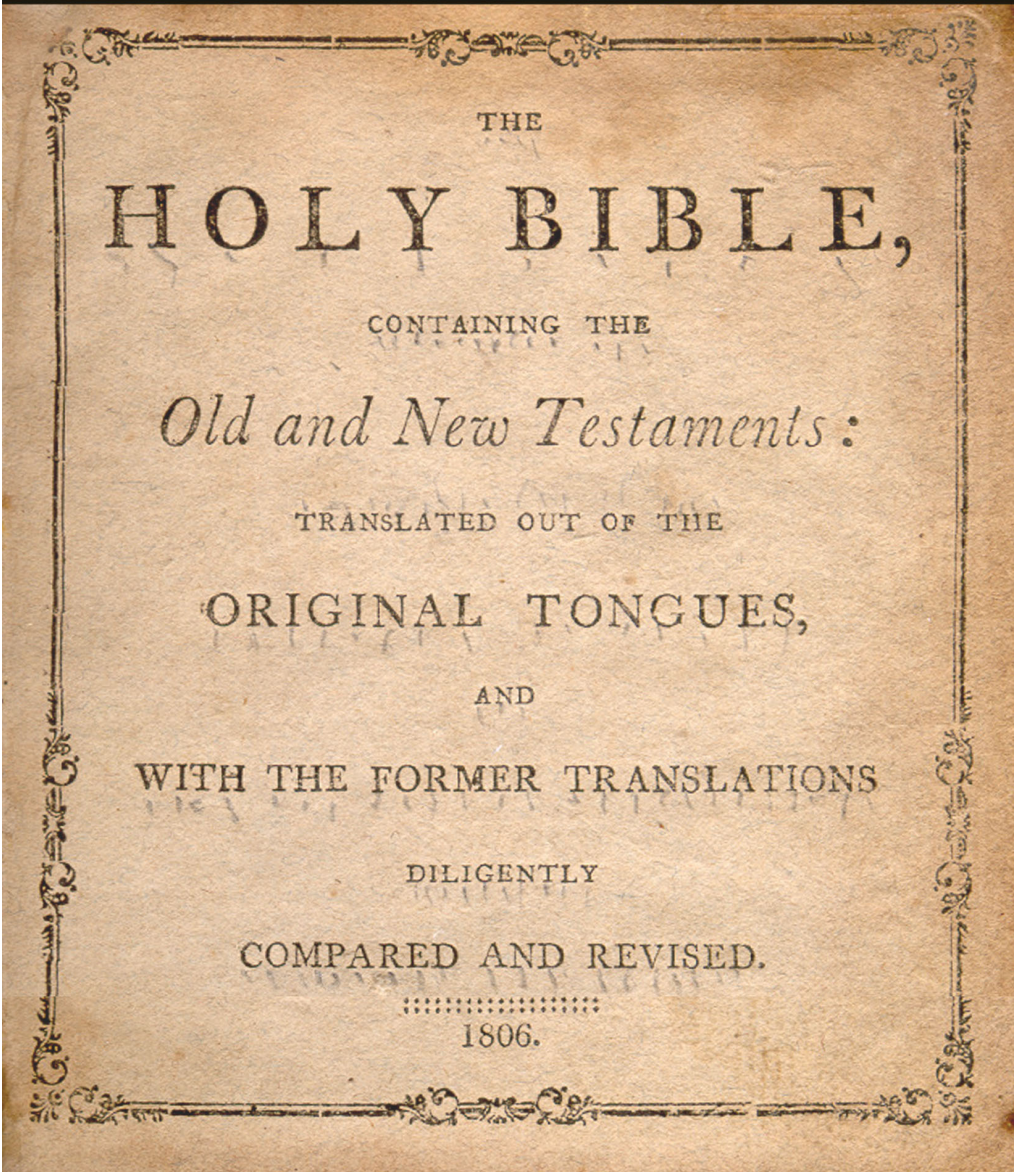
Just as God’s presence is essential to our journey of faith, we believe that God’s people must be engaged with the community around them. To us, this means living a life that is both **monastic** and **missional**.

The church is the monastery, the place we gather to be trained and made ready to live a life that honors God. But as sweet as Christian fellowship can be, we must resist the temptation to stay cloistered in the monastery. Jesus left behind the comforts of heaven to abide with those God sent him to save.

In this time of hyper cultural change, the United States has become a critical mission field. In learning to live missionally, we look around at the natural places where we interact with people who do not know Christ, and we intentionally build into those places. Jesus shared life with the people around him; we must do the same. Our work as missionaries is as much an expression of worship as our songs and prayers.

By God’s grace, in less than four years the Terra Nova community has grown from a small group gathering for prayer and worship to a congregation of nearly 300 people meeting for two services on Sunday morning. We have moved from a heavily funded church plant to an independent body of believers providing support for several new congregations. But while we are grateful for numerical growth, numbers do not tell the whole story of Terra Nova, and they are not the only measure by which we track our progress. Over the following pages, this report will chronicle how we have gathered as monastics to worship and live deeply in community, and how we have scattered missionally to incarnate Christ in our world. It is meant to be a reflection on God’s provision over the past year and a means of encouragement to continue on our pilgrimage together.

monastic community.



“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

JOHN 1.14

monastic.

Connected and Committed

New Tribes are the lifeblood of Terra Nova, the place where authentic Christian community happens. These biweekly gatherings of 10-15 people take place in homes across the Capital Region and beyond. Demand for additional New Tribes continues to rise, having grown from four groups at the beginning of 2009 to nearly 20 today. We also are blessed with an unusually high participation rate for church small groups. Approximately 65 percent of Terra Nova attendees are members of a New Tribe.

The Power of the Pulpit

At Terra Nova, we believe in the power of expository preaching to change lives. During 2009, we spent the beginning of the year finishing up a series on the Gospel of John, followed by a survey of the prophets, priests, and kings of the Old Testament, and a deep dive into the first epistle of Peter. These series were challenging and encouraging, leading us to reflect upon the balance between truth and grace in the life of Christ, and the importance of holy living amid the trials of the Christian pilgrimage.

Music Matters

Terra Nova is blessed with an incredible stock of talented musicians, and our weekly services reflect the importance we place on worshipping God with creativity and excellence. During 2009 the worship bands were pared down to a total of four bands, each with a different style and focus—ranging from alternative rock to stripped-down acoustic. The year also saw the debut of several songs written by Terra Nova band members, as well as new arrangements of some of the classic hymns of the faith.

Hermeneutics and Hefeweissen

In keeping with the tradition of the great reformers of Christian history, Terra Nova provides a venue for studying the works of theologians who have informed the church's teachings throughout the ages. Once a month dozens of people take over the top floor of Brown's Brewing Company to discuss challenging texts over a pint of beer. Theology at the Taproom, or TATT, has grown to include participants from at least 10 different churches in the Capital Region. During 2009 the group studied Leslie Newbigin's *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society* and excerpts from the writings of the Apostolic Fathers.

Growing Up with the Gospel

Our children's ministry, Terra Nova Kids, is growing faster than perhaps any other aspect of the church. And for good reason: young families compose a large percentage of the congregation. In 2009, at least 10 new babies were born to families that attend Terra Nova, and the pace does not appear to be slowing down. To keep up with this growth, Terra Nova Kids has added additional classes and recruited more volunteers to help train up our children in the way of the Lord.

Peggy and Poiema

For the adults at Terra Nova, the annual men's and women's retreats have become favorite opportunities to get away from the daily routine and spend time deepening both friendships and faith. In 2009 the men of Terra Nova continued a five-year tradition of hiking through the woods to Camp Peggy O'Brien—a rustic cabin at the foot of the Adirondack High Peaks. Poiema, Terra Nova's women's ministry, hosted a slightly less rustic excursion to Christ the King Spiritual Life Center in Greenwich, N.Y.

Mark XVI. 14 /

This shows us the way in which we must deal with unbelief in ourselves, & in others. It is a sin & should be treated as such. Jesus would not have upbraided had not this been the case.

In the case before us they had repeated testimonies, from their own brethren, & backed by his own word — but we have even more guilt for we know him to be risen & yet doubt.

I. Let us consider its evil in itself

Suppose some one doubted us.

Think of who he is & what he has done.

Consider his near & dear relation to us.

The many times in which we have doubted and upon the same matter.

Where his promises forbade unbelief.

Despite our own declarations.

What have we believed in, preference?

II. Let us observe the evils which it causes

It grieves the Spirit of God.

It causes distrust in our hearts.

It weakens us for action or suffering.

It depresses others.

It leaves an ill impression behind.

It cannot but gender to bondage.

III. Let us reflect upon its sinfulness when it reigns

It grieves God the Father.

It breeds hatred in the heart.

It is the sign of utter moral death.

It is the essence of hell.

missional calling.



"As the Father sent me, so I am sending you."

JOHN 20.21

missional.

A Labor of Love

One of our passions at Terra Nova is abolition, and a key partner in this vital work is Love146—an organization devoted to ending child sex slavery. In April of 2009, Community Extension Pastor Matthew Miller had the opportunity to travel with Love146 to Southeast Asia, where he witnessed firsthand both the immensity of the problem and the incredible commitment of those who are laboring to fix it. Others in the congregation were able to show their support for the cause in September at the second annual Ride 4 Love. More than 20 people from Terra Nova participated in the bicycle ride, raising nearly \$35,000 for Love146.

Serving the Homeless

Closer to home, Terra Nova has been a longtime supporter of Joseph's House and Shelter, a homeless and transitional housing facility in downtown Troy. More than 40 members of the congregation volunteered at Joseph's House in 2009 in a variety of capacities. People from Terra Nova regularly prepare and serve meals, donate much-needed supplies and services, and simply spend time with the guests. Terra Nova also has played a significant role in the development process and staffing of "Inn from The Cold," Troy's emergency volunteer shelter. We were blessed this year to be honored at Joseph's House annual banquet for the contributions our congregation has made.

A Foundation for Families

Another way that Terra Nova combats homelessness is through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity. To help working individuals and families obtain homeownership, Habitat builds and renovates homes and

sells them at a significantly reduced cost. In 2009 Terra Nova began volunteering with Habitat of Rensselaer County, working on three different homes in coordination with other churches in the region. On Christmas Eve, Terra Nova took a special offering and raised \$1,000 to support these efforts.

Creative Community

The city of Troy has a burgeoning art scene, and Terra Nova has actively supported this creative resurgence through the Terra Nova Gallery. We have been hosting monthly art showings since 2006 in our gallery space at 409 River Street. The gallery has become one of the most popular stops on the Troy Night Out circuit, with as many as 300 people coming through the space on a given night. In 2009, the gallery also hosted a special abolition-themed show featuring a photographer who had spent time in Indonesia chronicling victims of human trafficking.

Provision for Planting

Terra Nova might never have gotten off the ground without the generous financial support of churches in the Acts 29 Network. Now we are in a position to return the favor by dedicating a growing portion of our resources to fund other new Acts 29 church plants. In 2009 we committed to supporting two new congregations: Grace Road, a church in Western New York focused on bringing the gospel to Rochester's urban South Wedge; and Focus 21, a new plant that is serving the French Canadian community in Sherbrooke, Quebec.

Supporting Shepherds

A critical part of our missional activities is equipping other church leaders to advance the gospel in this region and across the country. Pastor Ed serves as Regional Coordinator for the Acts29 Network in the Northeast. As

the Northeast hub for Acts29, for the past three years Terra Nova has hosted several conferences for pastors and church planters from the Northeast and beyond. The Network exists to strengthen pastors and plant healthy, multiplying churches.

In August of 2009, more than 175 church planters came to Terra Nova for an Acts 29 event on the ecclesiology of worship, which featured teaching by our own Worship Arts Pastor Scott Womer and Tim Smith, Worship Pastor at Mars Hill Church in Seattle.



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“Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.”

financials.

Our goal at Terra Nova is to maintain consistency between our core values and the ways we use the resources entrusted to us. Breaking down our financials into monastic and missional expenses, as outlined in this graphic, provides a tool to help us measure progress toward our goal of being truly incarnational with our actions. As noted previously, we received significant external financial support during our first three years, which allowed internal giving to grow with the support of a healthy operational backbone. Since 2009 was our first year without direct support, our goal was simply to break even. However, Terra Nova's growth trends slowed in 2009 and various initiatives had to be delayed in order to limit the use of cash reserves that were provided from church support in previous years. Further decisions were made to scale back 2010 initiatives, including compensation reductions for the pastoral staff, so that Terra Nova can be fully sustainable. But through these challenging decisions, the elders have remained committed to providing support for church multiplication efforts as our primary missional calling. This type of support was crucial in the early years of Terra Nova, and we are grateful to be maturing and now returning this blessing to others. We continue to be thankful for the generosity of the Terra Nova community and pray that we will honor the Lord with our resources.

If you have further questions on the financial side of Terra Nova, please contact Stewardship Pastor Paul Gordon: paul@terranovachurch.org.

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	2008	2009	Budget 2010
Giving	\$ 286,780	\$ 354,031	\$ 339,950
Church Planting Support	46,750	-	-
Total Income	\$ 333,530	\$ 354,031	\$ 339,950
Church Multiplication	8,332	22,517	34,680
Missional Ministries	18,626	12,489	4,700
Missional Expenses	\$ 26,958	\$ 35,006	\$ 39,380
Sunday Gathered	31,184	40,661	34,928
Discipleship	14,863	14,225	11,830
Monastic Expenses	\$ 46,047	\$ 54,886	\$ 46,758
Overhead	280,307	281,628	253,812
Total Expenses	\$ 353,312	\$ 371,520	\$ 339,950
<i>Excess/(Deficit)</i>	<i>(19,782)</i>	<i>(17,489)</i>	-