

Water. Over the past ten years, Whitewater has founded its existence on the life-giving, cleansing, dangerous, and powerful nature of water. We have navigated the rapids of an adventurous life of faith together and drawn our very name from the experience. Now, as we look forward to the time when Whitewater Christian Church turns 16 in the year 2025, we are building on that vision and inviting Laramie to join Jesus in the most daring call yet: to walk on water.

Over these next six years leading up to that Sweet 16 birthday celebration, we envision creating an atmosphere where spiritual formation results in leadership multiplication - which creates a cycle that feeds further spiritual formation and multiplication far into the future. To achieve that, we see 80% of the people who call Whitewater home acting on the call to *get out of the boat*. What does it mean to get out of the boat and walk on water? It will look like different things to different people: To those who are living lives on a stagnant, safe lake, walking on water is a call to adventure, demolishing the boundaries of comfort and safety to find abundant life in Jesus. To those who are being tossed about by violent waves in their lives, walking on water is an invitation to step into the uncertainty and pain and find Jesus right there in the midst of it. And to those who are feeling troubled or anxious, walking on water is a call to deeper experiences of faith and trust.

While the specific acts of stepping out of the boat and walking on water will look differently to different people, different to each person, they will all share one thing in common: getting out of the boat inherently requires action. Movement. It is not enough to learn about walking on water or to agree that it would be a good idea; walking on water requires stepping over the side of the boat - and eventually, taking that step over the side onto the water evolves from a single action into a new lifestyle.

That new water-walking lifestyle will likely require an upending of the way we do things, individually and communally, as we take greater risks of faith to meet Jesus on the waves. It is no wonder, then, when Jesus called Peter onto the water, he did so with the admonition, "Take courage!" - and he is calling the same thing over the waves to Whitewater today.

Specifically within the context of our faith community by 2025, we envision walking on the water to look like fifty Life Transformation Groups to be started so 75% of our congregation can participate in them, knowing and being known by one another as you walk together, strengthened and challenged in deep community. We envision all ministry areas of the church having ministry leaders and an empowered staff of 100 total volunteers propelling the mission of Whitewater forward. We envision baptizing 100 people, having 300 people as a part of our community, and having three full-time, fully funded pastors on staff to lead us. We envision enfolding an expression of this Whitewater DNA into everything we do, clearly communicating this vision as well as utilizing it to help define and discern what we do in the future. And we envision identifying Whitewater's first church planter, someone for whom getting out of the boat means going somewhere, with our blessing and support, and starting a new community of people who are called to walk on the water.

This call is founded in the original mission of Whitewater - to be a community that persistently moves the world two steps closer to Jesus - and it further moves that mission to the next level. It is a call to make your next two steps the two steps that will take you over the side of the boat. When you do, not only will you deepen your experience with Jesus, but when your foot hits that water, it will send ripples outward that will affect many others as they are inspired to do the same thing -- beginning that cycle of spiritual formation and leadership multiplication.

Walking on water is not an end in and of itself. We walk on the water toward a specific destination: Jesus, and we do it not just for the experience, but so after the experience we are able to join the disciples on the waves in saying to Jesus in worship, "Truly you are the Son of God."

By Whitewater's 16th birthday in 2025, we envision being a faith community of people who walk on water, grabbing hold of and fulfilling God's dreams for who we can become, how we can love the people around us, and how he can be glorified in us.

Persistently moving the world two steps closer to Jesus,
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