

Great Banquet Family,

Please read, important information below!

At present, the Great Banquet functions as an ecumenical community, but operates as a ministry overseen by Vienna Presbyterian Church. The Great Banquet Board of Servant Leaders is now suggesting a transition to an independent nonprofit entity, maintaining its ecumenical nature without ties to any specific church or denomination; this aligns with the original vision of Lampstand, the parent organization of Great Banquet. As a nonprofit, NOVA GB aims to expand its influence and attract a diverse range of Christian church communities throughout the DMV area.

The Benefits of Great Banquet as Nonprofit Organization

Independence & Accountability:

The Northern Virginia Great Banquet (NOVA GB) Community will be positioned to fundraise independently, directly to its own community, without any brand confusion with Vienna Presbyterian Church and its own fundraising efforts.

This positioning allows for greater outreach to other church communities to encourage their participation (guests, team members, strategic board) and financial support for the Great Banquet.

How will this affect the relationship with Vienna Presbyterian Church:

The strong partnership between NOVA GB and VPC will continue, though NOVA GB will become an independent mission partner instead of a ministry directly overseen by VPC. The VPC session has unequivocally given us their support in this effort.

Steps to starting a Nonprofit:

Establishing a nonprofit organization is a straightforward process, and many community members are knowledgeable about nonprofit management and regulatory practices. To leverage this expertise, we have formed a committee consisting of these individuals. This committee will guide us in our efforts and provide direct updates to the Board.

The committee members are listed as follows:

- Robin Portman
- Charmaine Dockett
- Shontya Washington
- Rae Ann Fischer
- Karen Pope
- Larry Blackwell
- Ruth Lampkin

The Process:

- Submitting articles of incorporation to the Secretary of State in Virginia
- Applying for federal and state tax-exempt status
- Updating and refining our bylaws.
- Waiting for IRS determination (could take 3 to 6 months or longer)

Financial Accountability:

- As a nonprofit organization, financial accountability and transparency are essential.
- We are required to file an annual report to the IRS, commonly known as Form 990.
- It is important to maintain good accounting practices and designate a treasurer (who can be a volunteer from the community) or hire a bookkeeper.
- We will need to set up and utilize financial management tools.
- We must provide liability and directors and officers (D&O) insurance. (Costs can vary, typically around \$1,500-\$2,000 annually).

Management Practices:

While we are currently employing the management practices outlined below (which are required for independent nonprofits), there is a significant opportunity for us to enhance our effectiveness.

- A formal governance board
- Maintenance of formal meeting minutes
- Development of formal bylaws and operating policies

The call to action:

Please follow the link to cast your vote for this new initiative. Alternatively, if you oppose it, you may vote against it and provide your reasoning.

<https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/v2B6Ji>

Spreading the Word:

Please help us spread the word about this exciting opportunity to make a difference in our community. Pass this email along to individuals who might not check their email often and motivate them to participate.

In Christ Alone,

The Great Banquet 501c3 Committee