

October 16, 2022

Dear Members of the Vestry:

The Parish Hall Revisioning (PHR) team has gathered and reflected on data in response to the charge of helping Trinity “Dream and discern how God might be calling us to use the Parish Hall in new ways for the greater good and to the glory of God.” Bi-weekly meetings helped us to clarify the charge and form a plan of action. We solicited information from congregants and the larger Oshkosh community. Findings from this initial data set were prayerfully considered and led to more focused listening sessions regarding the mission and vision of Trinity.

Points of data collection and reflection included:

- May 24: Tour and assessment of Parish Hall
- Ongoing: Gathering of information by individual members of the PHR team through site visits, interviews with community members, newspapers, observations, etc.
- June 7: Charting of Parish Hall use and ministry opportunities including 1) how our space is currently/historically used, and 2) community needs.
- July 5: Clarification of Charge with members of the Vestry
- Sept. 11: Listening session with members of Trinity
- Sept. 25: Listening session with members of Trinity and representatives of the Oshkosh community

Reflection on the entire data set revealed patterns in how our use of space might serve Trinity, Oshkosh, and further God’s work among us. These patterns are as follows:

#### **Need for accessible and environmentally sound spaces**

- **Large gathering space**
- **Kitchen**
- **Office space**
- **Meeting spaces**
- **Green space**

#### **Common areas of involvement**

- Collaboration among faith communities
- Hunger/housing
- Additional sustainability concerns (climate, economic)
- Arts

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on this initial exploration on Trinity's use of space, our recommendation to the Vestry is threefold.

First, we recommend that the Building Team explore the cost and feasibility of two options:

1. Explore the cost and feasibility of moving all church operations to the main church building
2. Explore the cost and feasibility of renovating the Parish Hall

Once the Building Team has compiled these studies and made each option look as attractive as possible, the options need to be brought back to the congregation for discussion.

Second, we encourage the Vestry to explore best practices around some of the themes that emerged from our work, such as food ministries, housing, the arts, and sustainability, and to reach out to the larger Episcopal church through programs such as Sacred Ground/Beloved Community, Creation Care and LEEDS energy options. We also encourage the Vestry to talk with other churches regarding processes involved in converting existing spaces.

Third, we encourage the Vestry to continue to support and encourage the congregation to continue the work of discernment around the ministry to which we are called. This will involve some clarification of values and potential updating of mission and vision statements as well as supporting practices that help us live into our values.

As one community member succinctly mentioned during the October 25<sup>th</sup> listening session, it is important to "Meet the present needs which have come about since the building (Parish Hall) was built." The recommendations presented here summarize our efforts to discern present needs and identify areas of focus. We look forward to continued discussion as we move into phase two of this process.

With grace and peace,

The Parish Hall Revisioning/discernment Team

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