



Launching a Capital Campaign to Renovate our existing Parish House

September 28, 2016

Dear Christ Church Family:

After years of weighing options for better gathering space to support our mission, the recent feasibility study gave us our answer. While the community desired a new building, a deep and wide consensus emerged that led to the Vestry's decision to move forward with a repair and renovation of the existing Harris House.

We have been guided from the beginning by a desire for space where Christian formation can flourish, where we can celebrate together with joy who we are as a community, and where those with all ranges of physical ability will be able to move about freely.

The challenges of our current building have been known for some time – asbestos, safety codes issues, and limited accessibility – and yet these are not insurmountable. A phased, multi-year approach of repair and renovation will make our meeting spaces secure, safe and more accessible for our parishioners and the wider community, without incurring a large amount of debt that could put our future ministries, outreach, staffing and programs at risk. We anticipate the first phase of the project to begin in May, 2017.

I am delighted to share with that Dr. Wendy Gladstone and Mr. Steve Armstrong have agreed to serve as Co-Chairs of a Capital Campaign that will coincide with our annual stewardship campaign.

We will continue to update the parish on next steps and evolving plans as we ready our kick-off event on Sunday, December 4.

I believe the Holy Spirit has led us through these many meetings, surveys, and conversations over the past three-plus years. Now is the time to move forward with faith and courage. We are deciding to bloom where God has planted us, where we can continue to live, connect and serve with joy.

Peace,

Mark B. Pendleton
Rector, Christ Church of Exeter