

It is about stewardship

**Like time, skills, and money, God has entrusted our real estate to us so we can engage a life of discipleship and ministry. Our real estate assets are many and abundant. We are called to be faithful stewards of our real estate blessings in a way that is sustainable and sustaining of the ministry to which together we are called.**

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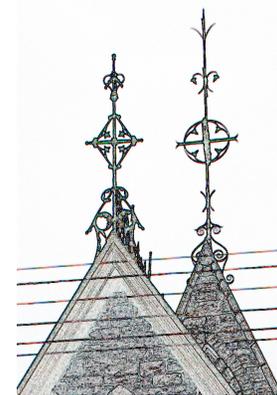
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## OUR REAL ESTATE— Facing the Challenges Together



## OUR REAL ESTATE— A BLESSING

One of our many blessings is the buildings and lands that dot the landscape of our Diocese. Over generations they have been places in which we gather—to worship, celebrate, grieve, serve, nurture, work and play. They are holy places where God in Christ is known. They are also places of ministry where we welcome those who are searching and from where we are sent to serve the world God loves.

## FACING CHALLENGES

Buildings are critical to our ministry and places we often cherish. They can also be burdensome, holding us back from fully participating in God’s mission. The cost of upkeep can be overwhelming and easily deferred to another day. Buildings are often under used, standing empty most of the week. Large parcels of land sit idle, not realizing their potential to support the work of the church. All the while, needs of the surrounding community go unaddressed. As our society changes, we are called to new forms of ministry for which our buildings are not always well suited. We are called to transformation, though when it comes to our real estate it is a complex process that tugs on our hearts and requires many skills and lots of time.

## WORKING TOGETHER

In 2010, Bishop John Chapman called on the Diocese “to work toward realizing the greatest possible potential from our real estate holdings.” These are shared assets and together we need to continue using them faithfully to support ministry. This is especially true when we take on major projects such as redevelopment, repurposing, and new construction. These are daunting tasks calling for a multi-faceted, lengthy process drawing on many skill sets, policies, procedures, and professional services. By parishes and diocese, clergy and laity working closely together we can meet these challenges and share the benefits of this stewardship.

## THE REAL ESTATE ADVISORY PANEL

Bishop John has established the Real Estate Advisory Panel, which provides him with advice on matters pertaining to the stewardship of our real estate. At the Bishop’s invitation, the Panel also provides advice and support to parishes and other groups in the Diocese, particularly in the following areas:

- Redevelopment for best possible use of property
- Repurposing of property for renewed ministry
- Property issues at time of parish amalgamations

Working with Bishop John, the Panel also seeks to build our diocesan capacity in addressing real estate issues for the long term by:

- Inviting theological reflection
- Facilitating ongoing conversations
- Conducting ongoing research
- Identifying best practices
- Recommending policies and procedures

From time to time, the Panel provides counsel to other diocesan groups whose work can raise real estate considerations:

- Property and Finance committee, which oversees real estate governance in the diocese
- Parish Growth and Renewal consultants, who provide integrated services for parish ministry