



**May 6, 2021**

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Dear friend,

As we begin to emerge from a year spent adapting to the challenges of a pandemic, it is a time for reflection and for consideration of our next steps as a parish. Over the coming weeks, we ask that you participate in small group conversations and related surveys to consider our path forward.

God is calling us. How do we answer?

What have we learned about ourselves, our faith, and our purpose? What has changed and what remains unchanged?

A year ago we were poised to enter into an agreement with a business arrangement for a 100-year ground lease that would have transformed part of our property (the building currently housing our own Fowler House as well as space leased to Ross Dress for Less) into a non-profit home for senior living. We had plans in place to manage the “interim” time when ministries using the Fowler House (e.g., choir, Sunday school, youth, ELL) would be displaced. Our Campus Planning Committee was nearing completion of a report on the implications for our full campus over time.

When the pandemic struck, the developer exercised the right to withdraw from the relationship, we hit the pause button on all the campus planning, and we all focused on how to be “more” of a church without any access to our spaces at all.

What have we learned about being “more” of a church? What might that mean for our missions and ministry going forward? In 2023 we will celebrate our 250th anniversary as a parish. We have a strong historical legacy marked by a treasured historical church building. And in the last year, we have proven that we can use the most modern communications tools to sustain and grow our parish ministries without any access to our physical spaces.

What is God calling our Parish to be? And what implications might this have for the path forward with respect to our plans for our properties?

There are two parts to the conversation:

First, we want to share thoughts on the deeper questions around our parish - what is important to our faith and our mission? What have we learned about ourselves? How has the year of the pandemic, racial reckoning, and general uncertainty affected your view of our purpose? How do we answer God's call?

Second, we want your input and thoughts about forging a path forward for our campus. As we consider God's call to Christ Church missions and ministry going forward, what should we consider in setting our course for the development of our physical spaces – particularly the Fowler House/Ross Building and our Parish Halls?

Today, we have an opportunity to envision the future of our ministries - and our space - with fresh eyes. I invite you to join us in a parish-wide, small-group discussion of who we are and how we answer God's call moving into our next 250 years. Parishioners are invited to sign-up for a two-part small group discussion at the link [here](#), and to participate in follow-up surveys to directly offer your voice about how our parish can best live into our call. Session 1 is May 18-23 and Session 2 is June 1-6. Surveys will be sent after each week. Attend sessions as you are able.

I hope you will join me in discerning how we answer God's call for Christ Church.

Blessings,

Noelle

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STAY CONNECTED

