

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COVINGTON

BACKGROUND STATEMENT FOR PLANNING STUDY

OUR CHURCH AND MASTER PLAN

For more than 175 years Christ Episcopal Church in Covington, Louisiana has been a shining light, uniting people to Christ and to one another. Christ Episcopal Church, located in historic Covington, has been the center of Episcopal faith for believers on the Northshore for generations. Our community contains more than 1,000 members with more than 250 worshipping with us each week.

Over time we have reshaped our spaces and added new ones to accommodate our ministry needs. Additionally, the weathering of human use, environmental elements, and time, play a factor as stewardship decisions require us to address deferred maintenance. In 2024-2025, a church master planning committee recommended a comprehensive plan to transform our spaces and beautify our campus, better enabling us to serve God and our community. We now seek to continue advancing our Master Plan through a capital campaign.

A TRANSFORMATIONAL CAMPAIGN

In 2017, Christ Episcopal Church raised \$1.75 million toward multiple projects through the Higher Ground capital campaign. This remarkable effort, unlike any our Church has ever undertaken, was possible because of the unprecedented generosity of you and your fellow parishioners.

Today our community must address new needs, as basic as adding parking and restrooms, but which also includes sanctuary beautification, church accessibility, and functionality. We have conducted an initial urgency assessment of identified projects that total approximately \$3 million.

At this time, Christ Episcopal Church needs your guidance to help us further assess prioritizing projects and advice as to how we can best move forward. Because of the generosity of our community, we have thrived for 178 years; we believe this time will be no different.

OUR GOALS

- ☐ WORSHIP God in the Anglican liturgical tradition and making a joyful noise with music of all kinds
- ☐ LOVE all people. No exceptions
- ☐ SHARE God's transforming love with our community and our world
- ☐ CARE for each other, our community and our world
- ☐ INCLUDE all people in our community of faith
- ☐ TEACH the next generation about God's love and our faith
- ☐ LEARN and continually grow and deepen our faith
- ☐ PARTNER and grow with Christ Episcopal School and Christwood Retirement Community
- ☐ SERVE others with our treasure, time, and talent



Sanctuary – Existing Building

\$350,000

Currently one restroom services the needs of a building that holds over 350 people. We will add an additional restroom off the narthex area. The dark and outdated interior aesthetic will be modified with a light shade of wall paint to create a fresh, traditional, inviting, and timeless interior that appeals to both parishioners and visitors. New church appropriate wall sconces will replace the existing. An updated lighting control system for all fixtures is needed. To prevent the exterior brick from being compromised, a sealer will be applied to the exterior walls. New stained-glass windows, inspired by those in the historic chapel, will be commissioned to replace the existing purple.

Sanctuary – New Additions

\$300,000

By building an addition to the back of the church, we will create a larger and more functional sacristy and vesting room with space for the work of the altar and flower guilds, much needed additional storage, and a new restroom. The existing Sacristy and Vesting rooms will be connected by the new addition behind the exterior altar wall. Improved interior flow will address needed space for church services, back of house functions, and storage needs. We will address safety and accessibility issues by rebuilding consistent and compliant exterior stair heights and providing a wheelchair accessible ramp at the West entrance. We must also redesign the flow of vehicular traffic out of Church/Parish Hall parking lot which entails moving the exit road.

Church Office Building

\$225,000

We must improve church parking and traffic flow on N. New Hampshire and E. Independence streets. We will add parking behind the church office. We will landscape and create walkability along Mackie Creek; drainage along E. Independence will be improved.

Historic Chapel

\$200,000

Any work on our beloved chapel will be undertaken respectful of its historic nature and timeless ascetic. Floor repairs will be made where needed. Repainting, replastering, and refinishing flooring, walls, and ceilings will enhance but not change the appearance of this sacred space. Leaks will be repaired. The worn and broken kneelers will be repaired or replaced and updated with fabrics and finishes to match the traditional historic aesthetic.

Parking

\$475,000

We will pave, line, and expand what is currently a gravel parking lot across from the Early Childhood Center, creating 26 new interior parking spaces. This will increase internal parking places to a total of 72. We will create new street parking, increasing these from 40 to a total of 58. A total of 130 parking spaces will be available, greatly improving problematic parking.

New Organ

\$650,000

Music is an important component of our liturgical tradition of worship. A new 15 rank pipe organ including new pipework, mechanics, casework, façade, console and switching systems will be commissioned and installed.

Endowment

\$200,000

We will support the mission of our Endowment and the long-term future mission of Christ Episcopal Church.

Deferred Maintenance and Audio Visual

\$300,000

The floor of Holzhall Hall needs to be structurally stabilized and leveled. New copper gutters are needed on the church. A new audio-visual system for in-house sound and for live-streaming needs to be installed. The administration office needs to be painted.

Pre-Development, Site Work, Permitting, New Shared Chapel Design Work, Contingencies etc.

\$300,000

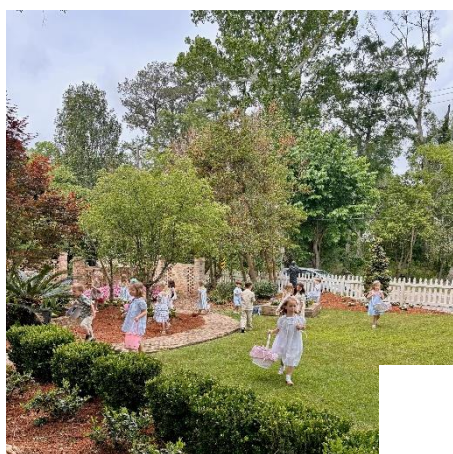


FOR THE FUTURE

To assist us in achieving our goals, the vestry has retained Alliance Fundraising to serve as our capital campaign consultant. At this time, Alliance Fundraising will conduct a planning study to gather the thoughts and advice of our Church community to complete our Master Plan..

A vital next step in their work will be to gather input, advice, and feedback from all parishioners. We seek your candid advice, which is critical in shaping our plan of action to advance our plan.

Next weekend, at all services, we will conduct a short survey from each household in attendance. Please review the Background Statement that was included in our Friday E-Newsletter. Thank you in advance for sharing your time and thoughts as part of this planning process.



ROOTED *in Faith* • GROWING *Community*

