

# Christ Church Cathedral

## Third Century Vision



### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Third Century Vision of Christ Church Cathedral is to claim God's mission as our own and to serve as a catalyst and resource for transformative and lasting change. Through various initiatives, Christ Church Cathedral will become a resource of hope and transformation in the Anglican Communion, the Episcopal Church, the Diocese of Southern Ohio and the Greater Cincinnati community.

### **Part One – The Zacchaeus Initiatives**

Two thousand years ago in the commerce center of Jericho, there lived a man of wealth and power named Zacchaeus. Learning that the great rabbi, Jesus, was to visit Jericho, Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore tree to have a clear view above the crowd. His search for a vantage point revealed his great longing – his search for a change and a new perspective for his life. He saw Jesus, and Jesus saw him. Zacchaeus' life then became one of inclusion and service. (Luke 19:1-9)

#### **To Serve**

To serve our diverse neighbors in the greater Cincinnati community who long for their lives to have meaning and purpose, we will seek out the disenfranchised, seekers and the so-called “nones” (those who claim no religious affiliation) – especially young adults. We will serve as a gathering place for the “creative class” of Cincinnati. We will shape, create and live out a new model as an urban cathedral in this postmodern, post-secular and post-religious age.

#### **Initiatives and resources**

##### *Short Term*

- Hire a Canon Missioner (*Spiritual Life, Cathedral Life, Living Our Faith*). **Complete.**
- Redesign the cathedral website (*Community Life, Living Our Faith*). **In process.**
- Create new interior and exterior signage (*Community Life*). **In process.**
- Hire an in-house Director of Communications (*Community Life*). **Complete.**
- Re-purpose the space formerly utilized by the Cathedral Shop as a community gathering space (*Cathedral Life, Community Life, Spiritual Life*).
- Connect to the downtown by opening the Sycamore Street doors during the week; hire part-time docents to welcome and monitor guests (*Cathedral Life, Living our Faith, Spiritual Life*). **Complete.**

*Note: The cathedral's strategic planning teams that initially advocated for this action are listed in parentheses behind each step.*

- Convene listening groups – consisting of parish members, diocesan representatives and neighbors – to help re-imagine how to use Centennial Chapel and other facility resources. *Began with Zip Meetings, as well as other meetings, and continues with listening groups in June 2014 and beyond.*
- Work collaboratively with artistic communities, *i.e.*, Cincinnati Opera, Cincinnati Boychoir, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (*Resource Stewardship, Spiritual Life, and Cathedral Life*). *In process.*
- Form a liturgical arts committee to enhance and expand the visual arts in public and worship spaces (*Cathedral Life, Spiritual Life, Resource Stewardship, and Community Life*). *In process.*
- Invite parish and community partners to imagine worship opportunities and uses in keeping with the ethos of Centennial Chapel. *In process.*
- Communicate details about the installation of the new organ and other needed musical instruments.
- Offer alternative worship for our mixed-demographic neighbors.
- Create a Center for Spiritual Living
  - Serving as a presence for spiritual seekers.
  - Serving as a presence for inter-religious and ecumenical faith expressions, *i.e.*, Centering Prayer, Buddhist-Christian explorations, the practice of yoga.
  - Becoming a renowned center for spirituality through the arts, *i.e.*, through the creation of such programs that call for annual artists-in-residence.

### *Long Term*

- Complete the refurbishing of Centennial Chapel.
- Complete the installation of the new organ in the nave.
- Acquire other musical instruments as needed.
- Open our facility as a full resource for the Diocese of Southern Ohio and the Greater Cincinnati community.
- Create an educational/theological dialogue in the style of the Trinity Institute-type for our diocese and beyond.

## Part Two – The Bartimaeus Initiatives

“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me.”

“What do you want me to do for you?” was Jesus’ reply.

The story of Bartimaeus, begging by the side of the road, appears to be a straightforward plea for healing from a blind man. But, rather than assuming the blind man’s needs, Jesus asks Bartimaeus what he really wants. Similarly, the cathedral must be engaged in partnering not only with people who have capacity to offer assistance, but also with those who are the potential beneficiaries of services and programs. Jesus partnered with Bartimaeus so that healing might occur. (Mark 10:46-52)

### To Serve

To transform the lives of the hungry, the homeless, the vulnerable and marginalized through strategic initiatives and diverse partnerships, we will partner with churches and other agencies who serve the poor, and assist them to increase their capacity for service.

### Initiatives and Resources

#### *Short Term*

- Hire a Canon Missioner to connect seekers with prayer and service (*Spiritual Life, Cathedral Life, Living Our Faith*). *Complete.*
- Create a new website design with focus on connecting people in need to helpful resources; connect parish, diocesan and neighborhood volunteers with opportunities to serve. (*Community Life, Living Our Faith*). *In process.*
- Hire an in-house Director of Communications charged with the full utilization of traditional and new media communication formats to further support the forging of connections (*Community Life, Living Our Faith*). *Complete.*
- Identify a “transformative outreach project,” *i.e.*, Family Scholar House. *In process*
- Convene listening groups – consisting of parish members, diocesan representatives and neighbors – to seek answers to the questions “what is needed” and “what difference can we make.” *Began with Zip Meetings and continues with listening groups in June 2014 and beyond.*
- Determine one non-Episcopal church that is making significant contributions to the serving the poor and partner with them to enhance its capacity, *i.e.*, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Over the Rhine (*Living Our Faith, Resource Stewardship*). *In process (suggestions welcome).*
- With the help of Diocese of Southern Ohio, identify Episcopal congregations within Diocese of Southern Ohio to support with missional assistance. *Dean Gail Greenwell will be visiting church throughout the diocese during the summer of 2014 to solicit input and ideas.*

#### *Intermediate*

- Further define and pursue the “transformative outreach project(s).”
- Determine community partnerships.
- Determine funding need for project(s).

## Part Three – Unleashing The Faithful Servants

“To whomever much is given, of them much will be required, and to whom much was entrusted, of the more will be asked.” (Luke 12:35-48)

### To Serve

We will serve all other initiatives, mission, and strategies with empowered servants and resources (*Elements of the Strategic Plan: Resource Stewardship*).

### Initiatives and Resources

#### Short Term

- Expand year-round stewardship education. *In process.*
- Increase gratitude as a spiritual discipline through various opportunities, *i.e.*, Moments of Gratitude. *In process.*
- Expand adult formation offerings on biblical standards of tithing, giving and sharing.
- Connect the Zacchaeus and Bartimaeus initiatives to needed resources for short-term and long-term goals.
- Name the Rev. Canon George Hill as Canon for Development. *Complete.*
- Name a (vestry-appointed) Third Century Vision campaign team. *In process.*

#### Intermediate

- Communicate the legacy of generosity of the parish/cathedral community by full utilization of the Christ Church archives and congregational stories.
- Increase number of pledging households by 15% every year for five years.
- Increase average pledge by 30% over next two years

