



Report to 2020 Diocesan Convention

Report from The Episcopal Home
The Rev. Rebecca Myers, President of the Board
Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania
October 17, 2020

All Residents have Moved to New Homes

By early August, all residents of The Episcopal Home had found new places to live. Staff provided support to assist in finding new homes, as well as packing and moving. Canon Mary Grace Shearer and Mother Barbara have been keeping in touch with the former residents and report that they are doing well.

The fact that all residents were able to move was remarkable, given the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. Kudos to Canon Shearer and all of the staff who kept The Home covid-free and made sure the residents were able to move.

Staff Transitions

All staff who were looking for a new position have found one and appear to be doing well. Canon Shearer has been keeping in touch with them. All severance payments have been made, with the exception of Canon Shearer's severance.

Canon Shearer continues to work on a variety of items necessary for the closure. Paperwork has been filed with the Commonwealth and all vendors notified of the closure. Utilities are being transferred to the Diocese. The townhouse rentals and subsequent sale has been transferred to the Diocese. Investment accounts have been closed and the money deposited in the Home checking account. Final bills are being paid. Records going back to 1950 are being culled and those not required to be kept will be shredded. Records to be kept will be transferred to the Diocesan office. Canon Shearer may be employed through October 31 at the latest. Her severance will be paid at the time her employment is completed.

Facilities

A Facilities Committee with the majority of members from St. Andrew's has been meeting and exploring options for the various properties. For now, the Committee agrees that the Diocese will continue to own the property. This is a way to ensure that whomever utilizes the facilities will be in sync with the ministry of St. Andrew's, which is physically connected to the property.

21 Prince Street

A Lease has been signed between Canon Shearer and the Diocese. Canon Shearer will rent the 21 Prince Street property beginning November 1. The Lease term is until December 31, 2021, although can be terminated earlier. Canon Shearer will pay \$1 per month rent, plus utilities and any repairs under \$250. The Diocese is contracting for mowing and snow removal.

208-212 East Burd Street Properties

Canon Linder continues to work with Remax Realty, the property manager for these properties, to place them on the market. Canon Linder is also reaching out to people interested in purchasing the properties, including the Shippensburg Civic Club. The Civic Club is interested in services and housing for people who are homeless.

The Episcopal Home

Jean Shepherd and Steve Smith from St. Andrew's and members of the Facilities' Committee, conducted a survey of a portion of the St. Andrew's membership as suggested by Mother Barbara. While some people were surprised that The Episcopal Home closed, most were grateful for the ministry and for the work of Canon Shearer. Overall, members hoped that another important ministry could be housed in the facility, with members of St. Andrew's able to participate. Serving people who are homeless seemed to resonate with the survey participants.

Currently, discussions are occurring between Mother Barbara Hutchinson and Canon Chad Linder with Community Cares. Community Cares is a multi-faceted Agency serving people who are homeless. They have been using churches in Carlisle to provide emergency overnight shelter since 2004 and have developed a resource center and outreach programs. They have visited the Home and are very interested in utilizing the facility. <https://www.morethanshelter.org/> At this point, details of using the facility are being discussed in deeper detail.

The Board's Work

Paperwork has been signed and filed with the Commonwealth regarding the closing of a nonprofit. We are waiting for a confirmation on closure, which could take a couple of months up to a year. The Board will continue to be in place until the closure is finalized with the Commonwealth.

A subcommittee of the Board is working on a more permanent way to remember the legacy of The Episcopal Home, and especially Canon Mary Grace Shearer.

Finances

The Home Heroes Fund was closed in June and the investment account was closed in early September. Canon Shearer is working on the final payment of all expenses.

