

FEASIBILITY STUDY REACTION FROM THE VESTRY OF SALISBURY PARISH

In the last two years we have entered into conversations with one another about who we are and what we value. We looked at the needs of the parish and reassessed our use of space in our buildings, accessibility, maintenance and the age and functionality of our facilities' systems.

Through our time of Parish Discernment, we concluded that it was best to sell the Parish Annex Building and place the sale proceeds in our endowment and to develop a master facility plan that included extensive work on our 1925 Parish House to provide more usable space in the building for dedicated Sunday School rooms and additional offices. To expand our space and make our facilities accessible to all an architectural plan was commissioned to extend our elevator and build out the second floor as well as renovating the pipe organ chamber to install a chapel in the church.

This summer's Feasibility Study revealed that parishioners did not favor this extensive plan, citing the enormous cost. They had questions about timing: is this the best time to undertake this work in the life of the church? The Vestry has heard the reaction of the parish and is responding to these overwhelming concerns. As a result, both the major Parish House renovation and the installation of a chapel will not move forward. If there is major growth in the parish in the future, we may want to revisit the architectural renovation plans, which the parish will still hold in reserve.

What was clear from the Feasibility Study is that we need to immediately address the church's lighting and sound systems and pay attention to the altar area, especially cleaning the triptych above the altar. We also learned of the importance parishioners place on fellowship and that an improved, dedicated space for coffee hour is needed. Opening up our fellowship space with new flooring, paint, and furniture will be a welcoming experience for members and visitors to St. Peter's and can be achieved at a fraction of the cost of a total building renovation. Adequate space has now been found for the present Sunday School and the Youth Group in the Parish House and so it is possible to have a much-reduced capital campaign which will allow St. Peter's to fund all these immediate facility needs.

The next step in this process is the formation of a Capital Campaign Committee which will organize the campaign and produce a revised case statement. We are looking at a revised fundraising goal of around \$250,000 but the exact number will be up to the Committee and the Vestry. Given the preparations needed for such a campaign, we are looking at doing this capital campaign in the new year of 2027. The parish will be kept informed as we move forward.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Feasibility Study. The Vestry greatly appreciates the work of the Feasibility Study Task Force who labored hard this spring and summer to make possible the Feasibility Study: chair, Karen Shields, and the other members of the committee: Julie Miliken, David Churchman, and Mary Phillips. If you have ideas, concerns, questions about these results or about the campaign, please contact a member of the Vestry.

Approved by the Vestry of Salisbury Parish Sept. 16, 2026 and read to the congregation on September 20, 2026 at worship during announcements.