

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the parish doing?**

The Church of the Ascension and St. Agnes (ASA) is revitalizing its physical plant in order to deal with a number of current realities, with a view to greater promotion of its mission.

### **What are the phases of this revitalization of development?**

Phase I (concurrent)

- Redevelopment of row-houses into apartments
- Repurposing of chapel into Parish Center

Phase II (with possible sub-phases)

- Restoration of the church

### **Why is the parish doing this?**

The two row-houses that are now the Rectory and the Parish House require \$2 million worth of renovation. Maintenance, even post-renovation, is unsustainable for the parish. Selling them in their current condition would not garner the parish anything near what had been anticipated. With the development of the row-houses, the parish will need to house what is currently in the Parish House (offices, smaller meeting space and archives).

ASA has been growing incrementally over the last few years and has developed a Sandwich Ministry to serve our hungry neighbors. We want to be a warm and welcoming community that is accessible to all. The new space will better serve our mission, which includes service of the broader community.

### **What is the timeline?**

Phase I: three years (anticipated, but dependent on funding)

Phase II: TBD

### **What will my capital campaign donation achieve? Where is my money going?**

A new Parish Center, the pivotal Phase I of the larger church restoration.

### **Is a Parish Center really necessary?**

- The Center, structurally connected to the church, will make everything accessible by elevator. A person in a wheelchair will be able to join us in the social hall for the first time in 150 years.
- The Center will house all that is currently in the “Parish House” (1219 Massachusetts Avenue) and will facilitate community engagement in new ways.

### **Why is the Parish Center Phase I when we have A/C and other structural needs in the church?**

- The Parish Center will be where we daily interface with the community (requires accessibility).
- The church A/C system will presuppose many of the Parish Center systems.
- The apartment development agreement includes a contribution of \$1.5M by the developer to the Parish Center (which will be built at the same time).

### **Why are we developing apartments?**

The two row-houses will be developed into apartments—at no cost to the parish. Their historic exterior and much of their historic interior will be kept. As of now, the land will be leased which will generate a significant annual sum of money to support our operations.

### **Do we risk depleting the endowment?**

Our policy is to protect the endowment.

**Are we borrowing any money?**

Not for Phase I, at this time. We anticipate being able to fund this through the \$1.5 million from the developer as well as giving by parishioners and significant funding from foundations. Foundations look at the financial contributions made by the entity applying to them for funding to determine whether and/or how much funding they will provide. This is why 100% financial participation by parishioners is critical to our success. There is no minimum amount expected except what your heart and prayer and personal circumstances allow. That we all participate in the capital campaign is paramount.

**Can I amend my capital campaign pledge?**

Yes. Simply contact the parish office.

**Can I spread my pledge over more than a year? How late into the campaign can I pledge?**

Yes, the campaign is over three years. You can pledge all the way into Year 3. We ask that you let us know your plans as soon as possible as we will be making plans on construction timelines. You can make your pledge to the campaign now and have your contribution start at any time.

**How does my capital campaign pledge interface with my annual stewardship pledge?**

The two are separate entities. A campaign gift is above and beyond the annual stewardship pledge.

**Is my capital campaign pledge tax-deductible?**

Yes, any donation to the campaign is tax deductible.

**Must I be a member of ASA to contribute?**

No, all gifts are welcome and deeply appreciated.

**Are we losing Saint Francis Chapel?**

The historic structure will remain and will have different uses, including as a chapel when needed.

**What happens to our Georgian Orthodox friends who use the Chapel?**

We intend to accommodate their worship needs inside the church.

**What happens to the columbarium?**

There will be a new columbarium chapel, for placement of cremated remains of the deceased, with a significant number of more niches.

**Where will the rector live?**

Wherever he/she chooses. As this will be a new scenario for ASA, we are in conversation with the Diocese about its required housing subsidy.

**What does the Diocese think of all this?**

We have been in ongoing conversation, and they feel that we have been thoughtful in planning this.

**If you have more questions, feel free to contact a Vestry member:**

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