LEASING AND SELLING PARISH PROPERTIES

Parish Officers Day May 6, 2017

Anglican Church Act 2003

- Section 3(e) gives Cathedral and Parish Corporations right to sell, lease, assign, transfer and convey real and personal estate.....
- Subject to Section 6(5)(Cathedral) and 7(5) (Parishes) which indicate that such action requires the approval of the Bishop and of Synod

Diocesan Policy A-3: Sale, Renovation and Purchase of Parish Property

- Policy currently under revision but direction remains the same
- Provides process to be followed which starts with the Diocesan Property Committee

Diocesan Property Committee

- Works with Parishes to ensure that action is in the best interest of the parish and the diocese
- Previews parish plans and provides advice and recommendation to Diocesan Finance Committee and Bishop

Responsibilities of Property Committee

- Approval of plans for new construction, purchases or renovations
- Review of plans regarding changes to facilities <u>before</u> parish approval of same
- Provides objective input at conceptual level before expenditures or commitments are made

Review of Proposals

- All proposals must have the recommendation of local Archdeacon included
- Proposals are reviewed from aesthetic and design standpoint
- Review centres on accessibility, space, building specifications, adherence to standards if applicable
- Determination of financial viability

Process for Sale of Property

- Application (Appendix A) submitted in writing to Diocesan Property Committee and reviewed by members
- Application may be to sell at a fixed price or to list for sale on market
- Proposed selling price should be supported by market valuation

Review of Application to Sell

- Following due diligence review, Property committee makes recommendation to Finance Committee for consideration
- Finance Committee makes their recommendation to the Bishop
- Bishop may qualify his approval with limitations such as range of selling price, time frame, etc.

Requests for Lease, Right of Way, or Mortgage Approval

- Similar process followed as for request to sell property – different documentation
- Lease applications should have full details of terms of lease included
- Proposed leases of vacant rectories should not unreasonably hinder potential future needs

Sale of Property Without Approval

- In conflict with the legislation of the Anglican Church Act 2003
- May result in financial and legal implications for parish
- Purchaser may not have clear title without the signature of the Bishop on the documentation

Timelines

- Finance Committee generally meets first week of the month, except in summer
- Material for discussion must be available week before a meeting to be included
- Review by Property Committee could take several weeks depending on complexity of request

Advantages of Early Involvement

- Recommended that Property Committee be involved as soon as possible in the process
- Property Committee keeps Finance Committee and Bishop apprised of project progress, reducing time required for final review

Use of Funds Generated by Property Sales

- Policy A-2: Proceeds from the Sale of Rectories currently under revision to expand scope to all residential properties
- Net proceeds to be invested in DCIF

Use of Capital and Interest

- Income available to parish
- Use of capital subject to certain restrictions
- Withdrawals of capital require approval of Bishop with recommendation of Finance Committee
- Funds approved for withdrawal generally subject to repayment

Request to Withdraw Capital

- Application made in writing to Finance Committee showing:
 - Intended use of funds
 - Rationale for withdrawal vs other options
 - Effect on provision of current and future housing needs
 - Plan for repayment of funds

Working Together

- Process designed to help, not hinder
- Consideration of time frame provides better opportunity for timely response
- Property Committee has expertise to lend assistance and advice
- Important to involve the right people at the right time
- When in doubt, ask for guidance!