

## Report to the St. Aidan's Vestry on Facilities needs for Campus Ministry

The committee was formed in the Fall of 2007 to assess the facilities needs of Canterbury Colorado in the short, medium, and long term. The current facilities were defined as:

Canterbury House  
2700 University Heights  
St. Aidan Church and grounds  
University of Colorado Facilities

### **Current State:**

**Canterbury House**, which is owned by St. Aidan's, is currently not in use. St. Aidan's has been advised that Canterbury House is structurally unsound. An inspection report was prepared by a structural engineer that has been and can be made available to the vestry. Weaknesses in the beams that support the floor make Canterbury House uninhabitable and dangerous for group meetings. The problems are multiple, including code violations and water damage. It would be very expensive to repair - actually rebuild. The patio area can be used for BBQ and Brat Frys. Even if Canterbury House were brought up to code it is too small to host the Canterbury Colorado ministry activities. Functions that were previously held in Canterbury House have been moved to the St. Aidan's facilities. This is part of the Management Agreement between St. Aidan's and Canterbury Colorado.

**2700 University Heights** is owned by Canterbury Colorado and serves as the residence of the chaplain to St. Aidan's.

**St, Aidan's Church and Grounds** is owned by St. Aidan's. Most of the program activity for Canterbury Colorado takes place in the St. Aidan's facilities. Canterbury Lounge and a study room are located in the Church. Sunday night worship takes place in the Chapel; Sunday night suppers take place in the Gingy Pat Hall; and Thursday Bible Study takes place in the Canterbury Lounge.

The **University of Colorado** has facilities that can be used by Canterbury Colorado usually on a fee basis. Activities on campus include Taize services and Christos lectures. Food Service is and must be supplied by the University's catering service.

### **Necessary functions for Canterbury Colorado are defined as:**

- Fellowship
- Outreach
- Worship
- Education

Details of function:

Fellowship, eating, recreation  
Education, Bible Study, Academic Studies  
Worship  
Study  
Living – Peer ministers, chaplain  
Participation  
Gathering  
Goofing off/Alone time  
Internet Accessibility  
TV& Entertainment  
Parish Involvement  
Outreach/Muffin Ministry/Brat Fries  
Visibility on Campus

**Short to Medium Term Needs:**

The short to medium needs for Canterbury Colorado can be met by the current facilities although it may not be the optimal set up. There were several small projects that have been completed to improve the Canterbury Lounge area. They include: improved signage, upgraded electricity to accommodate more lap tops etc, more natural lighting, In addition, an adjacent room was converted to a quiet study room. This is considered a shared facility with the Sunday School.

The St. Aidan's reception area was refurbished to be more welcoming to students and the public. Grace Pierce coordinated the effort with the Art and Architecture Committee. Grace distributed a questionnaire to the parish asking about the appearance of the reception area and how it should be used. The consensus was that the reception area was confusing because of the desk that was largely unused. The desk has been removed and more comfortable furniture from one of the meeting rooms has been placed in the reception area.

Two needs that could probably be met within the current facilities are:

1. space for peer ministers / small office – private counseling area
2. small, private worship space – not public

Possible options include:

- Sharing the space now used by the Canterbury Colorado Administrator
- Modifying the chapel space and or chapel sacristy
- Reconfiguring and/or sharing Sunday School Space
  - e.g. using it as small private worship space except on Sunday morning
- Having designated times the conference room is available for counseling or worship

### **Information Gathering:**

In order to determine the future state we needed additional information. John Moore was charged with contacting other college ministries to get a sense of what their facilities are like. John did a great job. 28 ministries replied.

Two things stood out:

1. There should be dedicated worship space and a separate space for fellowship
2. Campus ministries should not be shy about sharing facilities or being ecumenical because the financial burden of a dedicated facility can sink the ministry.

There was a distinction between on campus and off campus ministries. The on campus ministries are more likely to draw in people who are unchurched or other foot traffic. The ability of off campus ministries to draw in walk ins, etc. depended on the location near major thoroughfares etc.

Those ministries that had tried to provide student housing faced all the normal issues that occurred in dormitories - so we do not consider that a viable part of the ministry.

### **Concerns:**

A major concern to the committee is that the ministry is not visible to the street. The current location of the Canterbury Lounge requires students to enter through the church or the parish hall and go to the most remote corner of the facility. The St. Aidan's campus is visible from the street but even St. Aidan's is located at the edge of the campus. The existing Canterbury House is not a usable facility. But serious consideration needs to be given to a street facing facility.

### **Future State:**

Separate Facility with coffee house, meeting rooms, housing for peer ministers, and or chaplain, performance spaces, study places.

### **Conclusion:**

While we can meet the short to medium term needs with the current facilities in order to proceed to a future state we would require professional assistance.

