Chapel Discernment Committee FAQs

1. **What is the Chapel Discernment Committee?**
   a. This ad-hoc committee was created by the Vestry with an initial charge of discerning a need for a chapel on our campus. The scope of the committee has now changed to help the vestry determine the extent of capital work that should be prioritized before a chapel.

2. **Does this mean we aren’t ever going to build a chapel?**
   a. No, the consensus of the committee is that the chapel could serve a very valuable need in our parish, however we have to prioritize more pressing capital needs first.

3. **What capital needs are there? Everything looks great!**
   a. The Vestry and Staff work very hard to ensure that our physical plant looks as good as it can, given the resources we have. However, there are other physical plant problems that have arisen and/or we know will need to be addressed soon. Most of these are not visible such as issues with plumbing, electrical, roofs, A/C, etc. Many of these are part of the regular maintenance of a physical plant as large as ours and much of it is long overdue.

4. **Can’t our regular operating budget handle these costs?**
   a. In short, yes it can but at a very heavy cost. Because of the amount of operating budget spent on these maintenance items, we do not have enough funding for our church’s priorities such as programing and hiring more clergy and staff.

5. **Who is on the committee?**
   a. Mat Thekkil (Chair)
   b. Bruce Culver
   c. Elaine Culver
   d. Hollye Fisk
   e. Whitney Holley
   f. Chuck Huffman
   g. Mike Mignardi
6. When does construction/repairs start?
   a. It is important to understand that we are not the committee that will program, site, design, or build anything or oversee the project. Our charge is to enter a period of discernment to help assess what our total capital needs are which could also include building a chapel.

7. If you aren’t designing or programming, what are you discussing?
   a. What is the total list of capital maintenance needs right now?
   b. How should our capital needs be prioritized?
   c. Would we need to create a separate endowment to handle future maintenance needs?
   d. Is a chapel something we need right now?
   e. How would a chapel be used and by whom?
   f. What features would a chapel need to have?
   g. What would be the cost of new construction of a chapel?
   h. Can we realistically raise the remaining, non-committed costs?
   i. What would operating costs be for the space? Can we support those costs given our current capital/maintenance costs?

8. How much new money has been committed?
   a. Some new donors have come forward with gifts totaling $550k plus an additional $250k to match any donations from the parish. These gifts are specifically designated for the construction of a chapel and thus we need to think about how to raise the funds needed to address our capital needs.

9. How often do you meet? Can I attend?
   a. The committee meets once a month and have met four times already. Observers are welcome but are asked to refrain from speaking during the main agenda, but are welcome to give their thoughts during the open discussion period at the end of the meeting.

10. When will this committee make its recommendation?
   a. Our target is to have something to the Vestry by May 2018, however we do not have an exact target. Our goal is to keep an open mind and let the Holy Spirit be our guide.
11. Will the parish have a chance to give our input?
   a. Absolutely! Our plan is to launch a parish-wide survey and have subsequent conversations to solicit feedback, ideas, and prayers.

12. I still have questions, whom can I contact?
   a. Mat Thekkil (rthekkil@gmail.com)
   b. Fr. Casey Shobe (cshobe@transfiguration.net)
   c. Liz Kerner (ekernermd@gmail.com)