

Episcopal Diocese of Missouri  
**Grace Hill Campus Task Force**

**REPORT FOR 2022 DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

The historic Grace Hill site has been owned by the Episcopal Church since 1845. It has housed active congregations, health clinics, and a variety of social services. Today, the property is maintained but vacant following the merger of Grace Hill Settlement House with the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis. Affinia Health, a descendant of community health services founded at Grace Hill, occupies its own building on a portion of the site leased from the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri.

The property includes the original Grace Church building from 1923, a south wing known as the “gymnasium” built around 1960, an older north wing known as the “Jennie Wahler Building,” a former clinic building at 13<sup>th</sup> and Benton, and a rectory on the west side of the site. Parts of the area were used as a burying ground as Old North St. Louis developed in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. A detailed history of the Grace Hill area is available from Sue Rehkopf, our Diocesan Archivist.

Early this year, Bishop Deon appointed a task force to explore future uses of the Grace Hill property and present recommendations to the Diocese. Task force members include the following:

- The Rev. Deacon Barbi Click, Missioner for Jubilee Ministries
- Mary Ann Cook, Church of St. Michael & St. George/Clayton
- Clark Davis, Chair, St. Peter’s/Ladue
- Susan Fazio, St. Stephen’s/Ferguson
- The Rev. Renee Fenner, All Saints and Ascension
- Shawntelle Fisher, CEO, Soulfisher Ministries
- Mtipe D. Koggani, Transitional Deacon, Christ Church Cathedral
- Rick and Mary Jane Kuhn, Emmanuel/Webster Groves
- Julie Manton, St. Barnabas/Florissant
- Valerie Patton, All Saints and Ascension
- Sue Rehkopf, Diocesan Archivist
- The Rev. Aaron Rogers, Trinity/CWE
- The Rev. Canon Doris Westfall, Canon to the Ordinary

The Task Force has engaged individuals and organizations across St. Louis as stakeholders and potential partners in programs that will restore Grace Hill to service of the surrounding community. Many of them attended an “open house” at Grace Hill on September 12, and interested organizations were invited to make specific proposals. The Task Force is scheduled to consider several opportunities at a meeting on November 1.

In exploring potential futures for Grace Hill, the Task Force has discussed educational, housing, cultural, and health services for youth and families in addition to an active church congregation in this resurgent St. Louis neighborhood. These ideas all reflect the history of Grace Hill as well as current community needs. Our recommended vision for Grace Hill is ***A place of love and peace in Old North St. Louis, fostering community support through collaboration to nurture and enrich lives.***

Thanks to Task Force members for their time and effort – and to all who may contribute ideas to this important discernment process.

Clark Davis, FAIA  
Chair