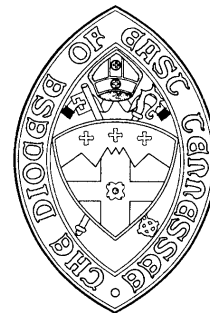


THE EAST TENNESSEE EPISCOPALIAN



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Bishop supports questionnaire to inform re-visioning of master plan

Dear Friends,

In 2001 and 2002, the diocese carried out a capital fund-raising campaign called “Grow in Mission” to support our campus ministries, seminarians and Grace Point Camp and Retreat Center. Many of you responded to that call, and we thank you!

Ground was broken at Grace Point in December for the first “treehouse” dormitory, and plans are under way to build a chapel using funds pledged by the people of St. Paul, Chattanooga.

However, because of unforeseen economic and other factors, the fund-raising campaign did not generate the response we had hoped. It now appears the original master plan may have been somewhat overly optimistic in its breadth. Indeed, as reported in the East Tennessee Episcopalian’s December / January issue, significant debt remains to be settled before additional construction can be considered.

Therefore, in a late March meeting, the Grace Point Board of Managers decided it would survey past and potential users of the center — all of us — with the goal to develop and share a vision that can be claimed by many more people.

In a separate meeting the same weekend, Bishop and Council affirmed the need to solicit your thoughts and ideas on how to develop this wonderful property on Watts Bar Lake so that it will enhance our lives together.

I encourage you to take a few moments and complete the survey on this page. Return it to my office by May 15, and look for a future report on re-visioned plans for Grace Point, your camp and retreat center.

Faithfully,

The Rt. Rev. Charles vonRosenberg
III Bishop of East Tennessee



photo by Sharon Rasmussen

Bishop Charles vonRosenberg, center, meets March 18 with the Grace Point Board of Managers. Board members attending the meeting included among others, at left, John Woody and Fred Fields, and at right, the Rev. Hugh Jones, chairman. The board discussed factors with impact on plans to develop the diocesan camp and retreat center, including the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks just before the launch of the Grow in Mission Capital Campaign and a nationwide economic downturn. Given the campaign’s limited success, the board decided to survey East Tennessee Episcopalians to determine whether the existing master plan is responsive to current needs and funds.