

May 15, 2010

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church  
1679 Broadway  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Tithes and Offerings Committee of the Diocesan Council  
Episcopal Diocese of Michigan  
4800 Woodward Ave.  
Detroit MI 48201

Dear Friends:

We are writing an appeal for modification of our Diocesan Apportionment for 2011. If you have questions, please contact our Rector, Rev. Dr. Susan McGarry or myself. We thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

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Petition of Appeal for Modification of Diocesan Apportionment  
St. Aidan's Episcopal Church  
1679 Broadway  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

a. Rationale for nonpayment of apportionment.

St. Aidan's has experienced decreased income from the current economic environment for the past several years. The decreased income is due to a decrease in pledging units and decreased amounts of existing pledges. Several members have had to relocate from the local area to find work. However, this year the income from pledges and loose offerings has stabilized for the first time since 2006. We are also beginning to have an increased frequency of visitors and more people returning for worship. St. Aidan's is requesting a lower apportionment of \$1800 for the year 2011 with progressive increases each year to reach the desired apportionment by 2014. (See Table on page 3).

b. Strategic plan including timeline, to return to proportional giving.

The following table describes current and future estimates of return to full apportionment by 2014.

This scenario demonstrates a return to full Diocesan apportionment while approximately continuing the current levels of funding for other expenses. While the rector would continue to be paid at the level of a 60% appointment, this is another priority that we hope to address. These goals can be reached by adding new pledging units per year and encouraging growth of current pledges through stewardship education. The goal would be to increase pledge income by approximately 4%. The rector's expenses were decreased for 2010 and beyond by negotiating a \$5,000 lower option for health insurance.

The following table illustrates only nominal increases for the rector and expenses.

The priority to reach full payment of our diocesan apportionment by 2014 is also illustrated.

**St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church Projections for Income and Expenditures**

<b>Sources of estimates</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	
<b>Income</b>						
Pledges	\$96,000	100,000	105,000	110,000	115,000	
Fundraisers	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	
Loose and other	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$107,000</b>	<b>\$111,000</b>	<b>116,000</b>	<b>121,000</b>	<b>126,000</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>						
Rector % and Salary	60% 70,000	60% 71,000	60% 72,000	60% 73,000	60% 74,000	
Mission	400	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	
Diocese	1,200	1,800	5,100	8,400	11,600	
Building and Program	35,400	36,100	36,800	37,600	38,300	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$107,390</b>	<b>\$111,000</b>	<b>\$116,000</b>	<b>\$121,000</b>	<b>\$126,000</b>	
<b>Current Pledges</b>						
New Pledges	2	2	2	2	2	
Number of Pledges	32	34	36	38	40	

- c. Parochial Reports for Last Three Years.  
Parochial Reports are attached for the last three years (Attachment A).

- d. Full Financial Accounting

The complete and actual budget for 2009 is attached. The Audit for 2009 is attached. (Attachment B).

The complete and actual budget for 2008 is attached. The Audit for 2008 is attached. (Attachment C).

Due to the fact that there was no treasurer for the year 2007, financial statements were not prepared on a regular basis. We reconstructed the accounts in preparation of the parochial report, but there was no year end statement. We have no reason to believe there were any financial

improprieties in 2007, but the records are not yet in condition to audit. The complete and actual budget for 2007 is attached (Attachment D).

- e. A complete and accurate report of all current expenses and the amount thereof, including salaries.

The Operating Fund, Calendar Year 2010, including current expenses and the amount thereof, including salaries is attached (Attachment E).

- f. A complete and accurate list and description of all assets: real estate and other property held with an indication of their fair market value investments, endowments including any restrictions

St. Aidan's property was valued on January 2, 2008, by Church Mutual. Real Estate and Personal Property is valued at \$973, 815. St. Aidan's is 50% owner, which is \$486,907.50.

- g. A statement of all liens and encumbrances upon the same or any part thereof.

There are no liens and encumbrances upon our property or any part of it.

- h. Current mission statement and priorities and how they are being lived out.

**Mission Statement:**

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church is committed to experiencing and demonstrating God's love through Eucharistic worship, prayer, study and action. We strive to be a nurturing, spiritual Christian community, strengthened by the participation of our members, the example of our youth, and our collaboration with our sister congregation, Northside Presbyterian Church. We embrace diversity and seek to understand it. With our partners in faith and community we endeavor to be good stewards of God's creation and to speak out for justice.

**Vision Statement:**

"The Church in the Woods that demonstrates God's love through Inclusive Community, thoughtful Exploration, and Loving Service."

The following description highlights our vision priorities.

**Inclusive Community**

The church has altered its design to become accessible to a wide variety of worshippers. A lift allows people to access the worship and social areas of the

building. An updated sound system is available to assist those with hearing difficulties.

The congregation represents a wide variety of society. The age range of worshipers is from infants to 93. Worshipers also include people of differing races including African American and Native American. Members of the congregation come from the United States and sixteen foreign countries. The LGBT community is represented. There is also a range of people with special needs and challenges.

Worship has been shaped to be welcoming and accessible. This is partially accomplished through poetry and a variety of creative music which has often been composed by members. When worshipping with our sister congregation, Northside Presbyterian, there is also access to inter-denominational liturgy. The congregation continues to have two morning services to meet the varied needs of the congregation.

A variety of worship materials have been used with the gracious permission of Bishop Gibbs that focus on areas such as peace, hope and stewardship of natural resources.

Children are an important part of the worship community. Formal education for children includes both Sunday School between services and the Learning Center, a unique multi-age resource center. This center provides a one room school house approach to learning during the 11:00 service. The timing of the Learning Center is designed to accommodate the needs of worshipping parents who are able only to attend one service on Sunday.

The church has also promoted the arts through the mechanism of the Rehill Art Gallery. Local artists, sometimes members of one of the congregations, show their art work and make it available for sale.

### **Thoughtful Exploration**

Thoughtful exploration is the emphasis in adult Christian education with members of Northside Presbyterian, which historically has focused on scholarly study of Biblical and societal issues. There have also been periodic discussion programs open to the community, such as “Via Media” and “Living the Questions”. Examples of Adult Christian Education series include When was the Bible published, Literature in service of state building in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries BCE and What do we have in common with other faiths. In the weekly Bible Study on Wednesday, participants have studied most of the books of the Bible and the Apocrypha. Recently the book of Tobit and the Revelation of John.

The church is engaging in evangelism to promote growth and revitalization of the church community. There have been 7 new members in the past year and have at least 10 new worshipers since the new year who bring new experiences and energy to keep the community alive and growing. The church has a history of participating in redevelopment education including the Alban Institute's "Inviting Church" and "What Size Should We Be", and the national church's program "Start-up Start-over". The vestry continues to dedicate energy to address new directions in evangelism.

To communicate and appeal to those outside the St. Aidan's Community, members have worked with a variety of media and advertising. Members have developed a web page to introduce the parish and announce the activities of the church. Another mechanism is the development of a Facebook page that maintains ongoing dialog. Also invitation cards have been developed for members to invite others to St. Aidan's for worship and other activities. Regular postings on the University of Michigan's North Campus invite students to worship. Our summer rummage sale is timed to both serve incoming students, particularly families living on North Campus and to acquaint them with our church and its activities. The church has also used the newspaper and other traditional media to advertise the church generally and special events. In addition, clergy and members of the congregation are visible and actively involved in community and religious activities, including those sponsored by the Religious Roundtable, the Religious Action for Affordable Housing, and the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice.

- i. Strategic Plan for Enacting the Vision of God in Our Community.

### **Loving Service**

#### **Short Term Goal Statement:**

"St. Aidan's is dedicated to the active stewardship and sharing of the personal, spiritual and physical gifts God has given us."

St. Aidans has dedicated itself to use these gifts to both serve the community and to invite people here for worship.

One of the most special gifts that St. Aidan's has is the lovely 5 acre grounds with a forest that provides habitat to many animal species. In 2008 the children of St. Aidan's/ Northside Presbyterian made a successful application to have our woods designated as a National Wildlife Habitat. In 2009 there was a Dedication of the National Wildlife Habitat. On May 23, 2010 there will be another celebration with a field lecture by a well known expert in the field, Dr. Burton Barnes, Professor Emeritus of forest ecology from the University of Michigan.

Our active stewardship of this treasure includes work to maintain this habitat with a healthy forest. The church sponsors activities to remove invasive species, promote the natural environment and develop trails for public use and enjoyment. This peaceful environment for hiking and meditation is used by neighbors who simply walk here as well as those who travel a distance to get here.

Our labyrinth provides an additional tool for meditations. It has also attracted visitors from near and far.

As part of the outreach to the community, St. Aidan's with King of Kings Lutheran Church has sponsored a summer camp on our campus that is open to the community. The camp is directed by the Living Waters Ministry and focuses on the environment and preserving God's creation. In 2009 there were 42 participants from four counties. We were able to offer 14 scholarships to allow children of limited means to attend. Collaboration with many churches has provided outreach to the wider community.

St. Aidan's has remained committed to community outreach to help the less fortunate in our community and elsewhere. This outreach is congruent with the bishop's charge to defend those who have no helper. This outreach includes a wide variety of activities:

- a) 9 twelve step groups use the facility each week.
- b) Each week food is collected for the local food pantries. The non-perishable food is distributed through a local organization, Food Gatherers.
- c) The church participates in preparing and serving a meal at the Delonis homeless center each month.
- d) Each year, the two congregations sponsor the Delonis overflow shelter by housing 15-20 men at the church for one week.
- e) Each year the members of the congregations participate in the letter writing campaign sponsored by Bread for the World.
- f) Each year members participate in the CROP hunger walk by walking or by sponsoring a walker.
- g) During the year, opportunities to support the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund are offered.
- h) Through one of our member families, St. Aidan's helps to promote and sponsor activities at St. Mark's parish in Umanachi Obowo, Ibo State, Nigeria.
- i) Each year at Christmas time, the church participates in providing gifts of toys, clothing, and/ or household items to needy families through a program called the Jesse tree. In 2009, recipients of these gifts were from families with incomes that are less than 15% of the local median income.
- j) Each year at Epiphany, an ingathering of household gifts is taken for an individual or family moving from homelessness to a home. We

have served clients from the Salvation Army, Avalon Housing, Safe House, and the Interfaith Hospitality Network, and Habitat for Humanity, and the Delonis Homeless Shelter.

- k) Just adjacent to our property is a site for permanent housing for women and children who have experienced domestic violence. The church has partnered with this facility and its sponsors (Avalon Housing Corporation and Safe House Association) to help the site becoming a reality as well as to furnish the home.
- l) Both St. Aidan's and Northside have developed a special relationship with a low income neighborhood built by Avalon Housing by participating in the fundraising that bought the property for the project, providing a yearly Easter Egg hunt for the children and incorporating children from the neighborhood as scholarship participants in the day camp. Another outreach to the community has been through the use of the building as a retreat center. The church offers a variety of programs and makes the facilities available to other groups for rental. Examples of retreats offered by St. Aidan's members include Jesus and the 12 steps, stress management. Planned events include programs related to unemployment and underemployment, the affects of nature, and support to prevent isolation.
- m) The churches have opened up space for the Inter-faith Council for Peace and Justice for its book discussion series on racism.
- n) There is ongoing discussion regarding rental of space to provide a home for the Inter-faith Council for Peace and Justice. This organization provides opportunities for dialog and activities for persons of differing faith backgrounds.

The previous two sections demonstrate the vibrancy of St. Aidan's congregation. Though small, this dedicated group of Christians continue to participate in our parish and reach out to assist the needs of the local community and beyond. We trust that our efforts will result in growth of members and income that will lead to a return to desired activities including appropriate diocesan giving.

