

Frequently Asked Questions

What Did the Court Decide? Judge Bellows' opinion directs that the real property (the land and buildings) of the Church of the Epiphany and personal property acquired before January 31, 2007 is to be turned over to the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia.

Is Epiphany Moving? Pending the completion of satisfactory negotiations with the Episcopal Diocese, we are preparing for our congregation to relocate during 2012.

Where? Drawing on work completed before the recent legal decision, we are currently considering three locations in close proximity to the intersection of Route 50 and 28. Each property has its advantages and disadvantages. All will require significant work to prepare for our use.

When? The court ruling on January 11 sets a 45 day deadline for the final order that will actually make clear how the transfer of property that will go to the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia will be carried out. That date is February 24. The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia has repeatedly stated that they are hoping for an orderly transfer and have suggested that they would be open to a short-term lease of the property by Epiphany. We also hope for an orderly transfer. If an agreement can be reached, we would ideally move this summer.

How Will the Move Change Epiphany? Epiphany is a congregation of people, not a collection of property. We are taking the people with us and plan to maintain our current way of worship and as many of our ministries and outreaches as possible. We also prayerfully expect a new sense of freedom as we end five years of legal battles and look to an exciting future.

How is Epiphany Preparing for the Move? Roger Kodat, has agreed to lead a committee, called the Nehemiah Committee, that is already at work preparing our congregation for the move. The committee will give regular updates to the congregation on their progress.

What about the preschool? Pending successful negotiations with the Episcopal Diocese, our intent is to complete the preschool year at our present location and then take the preschool with us to our new location.

Should I continue to tithe to Epiphany? Yes. The judge's ruling clearly states that all money given to our congregation after January 31, 2007 is ours. Epiphany will need your support more than ever as we make this exciting transition.

I gave a gift to Epiphany before Jan. 31, 2007 and intended to be for our congregation, not the Episcopal Church. The court has ruled that all items given to Epiphany before Jan. 31, 2007 belong to The Episcopal Church, and that includes gifts, regardless of the intent of the giver. Please do not remove items from the church. Please do let Patrick Condemi (pcondemi@his-star.org) know about the item so that we can explore retaining ownership of it during negotiations.

How will we leave our current building? We plan to hold a formal “goodbye” service at a later date and are committed to leaving the building clean and prepared for the future purposes that God has for it.

What Can I Do? Everyone will need to contribute their time, talents and treasure to make our move a success. Please pray about your role and be in communication with the Nehemiah committee and vestry members.

Join a small group: Small groups are more important than ever during this season. If you are not already part of a small group, contact Fred Apelquist (fredapelquist@aol.com).

Update your contact information: We expect to communicate primarily through email about our progress. If Epiphany doesn't have a current email address on file for you, contact Anne Bracy (abracy@his-star.org).

Pray: Our church has always been a praying church. We are not undertaking this move alone, but with God and we all need to be in regular conversation with him about it.

Study: We are not experiencing anything that is strange for Christians. Take the time to prayerfully read the book of Nehemiah, Acts 5, 2 Peter 4 and Hebrews 10.

Hope: Hope is a virtue. We have a God who can be trusted with our future. It is time to look forward with expectation toward what he is planning for us.