



# St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Community Asset-Mapping Report





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## Thank you!

Partners for Sacred Places would like to thank St. Timothy's Episcopal Church and the volunteer members of the congregation's Asset-Mapping planning team for the congregation's hospitality and partnership. Partners' findings and recommendations would not be possible without collaboration offered by these dedicated, enthusiastic collaborators. We hope that this report is informative and helps to inspire St. Timothy's as it stewards its magnificent facilities for both parish and community benefit.

### Note on formatting:

This report has been prepared as a slide deck so that it can be read *and* presented to others.

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Supplements to this report include:

- Attendance list with individual names
- Inventory of assets and ideas
- Space-sharing and staffing resources

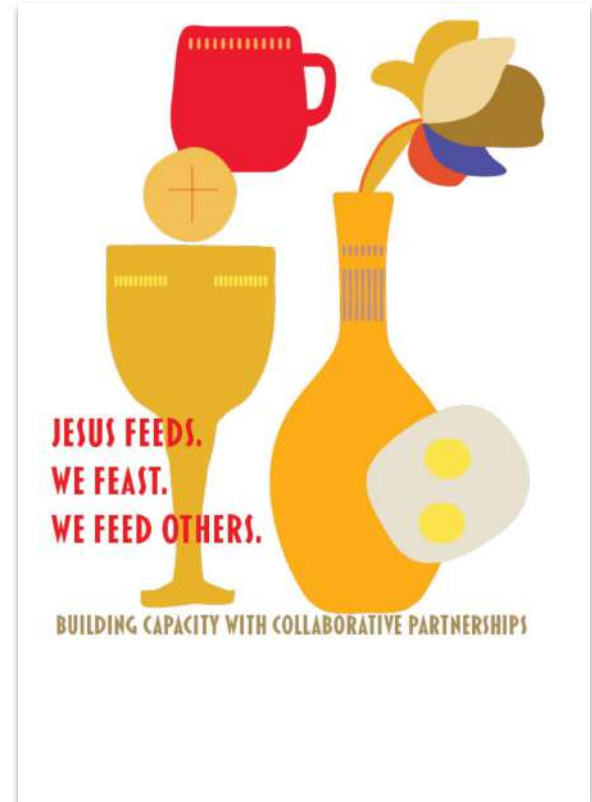


# Event Background: Timeline

**In 2022**, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church participated in Cohort #2 of Church Buildings for Collaborative Partnerships (CBCP), a Thriving Congregations Initiative funded by the Lilly Endowment. During CBCP, Partners for Sacred Places (Partners) interviewed representatives from St. Timothy's and visited the parish's campus to help evaluate how the congregation might extend its mission into the community and share space.

**In 2024**, the CBCP program enabled St. Timothy's and Partners to work together once more in planning a community Asset-Mapping event that would build off of the Thriving Congregations Initiative.

**In 2025**, Partners worked with St. Timothy's to plan and host an Asset-Mapping event that took place on Thursday, February 27. Participants first completed a facility tour. Afterwards, Partners staff led participants in a dynamic, collaborative exercise to inventory and connect assets that are available to St. Timothy's and the surrounding community.



# Event Background: Purpose

## What is Asset-Mapping?

Asset-Mapping is a community engagement exercise that helps to identify the capacities, connections, and opportunities that already exist within a group and its surrounding neighborhood. The exercise emphasizes what is present rather than what is absent and what is possible rather than what is problematic.

## How did we do it?

During the Asset-Mapping exercise, guests inventoried and connected six different types of assets that exist at St. Timothy's and in the surrounding SouthSide community, including: **physical assets** (e.g. buildings, land); **individual assets** (e.g. parishioners and their knowledge, talents, interests); **associational assets** (e.g. volunteers, connections to social networks); **institutional assets** (e.g. access to businesses, organizations, agencies); **economic assets** (e.g. endowments, rentable spaces, equipment); and **narrative assets** (e.g. heritage, reputation, credibility).



# Event Background: Objectives

- **Community outreach:** Understand needs and opportunities in the community surrounding St. Timothy's in order to inform the congregation's short- and long-term strategies for space-sharing and the development of new, mission-aligned programming partnerships.
- **Social networking:** Broaden the network of community representatives who might support space-sharing and partnerships. Cultivate allies.
- **Hello, again!** Introduce or *reintroduce* St. Timothy's as a collaborator and as a more than a visual landmark. Parishioners are committed to congregational and community development on the SouthSide.
- **Creating momentum:** Generate the energy necessary for St. Timothy's to strengthen its missional impact and reputation in the neighborhood and across Indianapolis.
- **Listening:** Organize a forum for St. Timothy's representatives to hear from community stakeholders. Use feedback from the event to build upon the CBCP and other assessments in preparation for the future.



# Event Background: Guests

## Representatives from the following organizations attended or RSVP'd for St. Timothy's Asset-Mapping event:

**Human and social services:** Welcome Baskets, The Arc of Indiana, IU Health Spiritual Care, Felon Up Inc.

**Arts, culture, faith communities:** Indiana Landmarks, Center for Interfaith Cooperation, Grace United Methodist Church.

**Local government and education:** Indiana Department of Natural Resources, University of Indianapolis Center for Aging & Community, Indianapolis Public Library, Mayor's Office for the City of Indianapolis, Perry Township Schools.

**Local businesses and other:** O'Riley-Branson Funeral Service & Crematory, Newcomer Cremations and Funeral Receptions, CICOA Aging and In-Home Solutions.



St. Timothy's Episcopal Church  
2601 E. Thompson Rd.  
Indianapolis IN 46227

**COMMUNITY  
ASSET-MAPPING  
EVENT**

PLEASE JOIN US at  
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church  
for an engaging opportunity to  
reimagine the future of our  
landmark building and grounds  
on Indy's SouthSide.

Together, guests will participate in a creative Community Asset- Mapping activity and discussion facilitated by our consultants, Partners for Sacred Places. We are extending this invitation to you because your leadership, experience, and insight can help us envision an expansive, sustainable, and collaborative future for our congregation.

**SUSTAIN COMMUNITY  
COLLABORATE**

**DATE & LOCATION**  
Thurs., Feb. 27, 2025  
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
2601 E. Thompson Rd.  
Indianapolis IN 46227

**To RSVP,  
please complete the  
following form:**  
<https://bit.ly/StTims-AssetMap>

**QUESTIONS?**  
Email the parish administrator at: [sttimothy.indy@gmail.com](mailto:sttimothy.indy@gmail.com)



# Asset-Mapping Findings

## Community Priorities for St. Timothy's Campus

While working in separate groups, Asset-Mapping participants generated 27 distinct ideas, each comprised of a bundle of associated assets. Some of the most popular ideas include:

- Hosting an end-of-life planning series
- Cooking classes or meal prep gathering
- Featuring St. Timothy's mid-century modern architecture by hosting classic car shows
- Utilizing St. Timothy's outdoor space for respite and healing
- Creating a welcoming and mentoring center

In the following slides, Partners has organized the findings generated at the event into broader community priorities for the evolution of St. Timothy's campus and presence within the SouthSide of Indianapolis.

# Asset-Mapping Findings

## St. Timothy's practices "radical welcome"

St. Timothy's has remarkable narrative assets! The parish is known for supporting women in ministry and for being "open and affirming" to the LGBTQ+ community. Additionally, in recent years St. Timothy's has warmly welcomed refugee and immigrant groups into the worship and social life of the parish, particularly groups from the Congo and Liberia. Asset-Mapping participants found the parish's commitment to radical welcome to be an asset that it might build upon in some of the following ways:

- Creation of a training center for welcoming and mentorship
- Citizenship courses and employment fairs
- Hosting cultural events and celebrations
- ESL classes or English conversation circles, such as those offered by the Southport Public Library
- Interfaith activities



# Asset-Mapping Findings

## Intergenerational use of Craine Hall

Participants found Craine Hall to be a flexible, accessible, and clean space with the potential to host a variety of new, community-oriented programs, especially for seniors and youth. While one might perceive the separation between Craine Hall and the sanctuary as an impediment, it might become an asset that helps to securely zone the campus for multiple space-users.

## Ideas for active seniors and adult education

- Chair yoga, tai chi, clogging, dance, and mobility classes
- Tax prep classes, health fairs related to veterans benefits, end-of-life planning and “death cafe” discussion groups

## Ideas for youth education and volunteering

- Meal prep or extensions of the current Loaves and Fishes, Godly Play ministry.
- “Adulthood 101” classes or Volunteer projects that engage local high school or college students.





# Asset-Mapping Findings

Participants envisioned possible uses of the parish's outdoor space, which includes a creek, wooded areas, a large front lawn, and a surface parking lot. Currently, the Department of Public Works is constructing a stormwater retention pond on the site to mitigate flooding. Ideas include:

## Contemplative landscape uses and "landscapes of care"

- Meditation spaces such as labyrinths or walking paths
- Bird sanctuaries
- Community gardens or raised beds

## Active landscape uses

- Sports field (e.g. soccer), playground, outdoor classroom

In both cases, participants recognized how landscape uses could reinforce St. Timothy's mission, e.g. soccer as a way to support refugee children or a community garden's connection to "feeding" the soul in formation.



# Asset-Mapping Findings

St. Timothy's features a remarkable, historically significant, modernist sanctuary space. Asset-Mapping participants envisioned how the sanctuary might be used in the future as both a sacred space and a performance space for music and theater.

## Enhance Arts & Culture on the SouthSide

- Participants felt that the sanctuary was particularly suited to the performance of modern and contemporary music and theater, especially by high-school or college students.

## Other promising ideas

- Feature the sanctuary's Mid-century Modern architecture as the backdrop for heritage car shows in the church parking lot.
- Participate in design events or initiatives with organizations such as Indiana Landmarks, Indiana Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and Indy Design Week.





# Recommendations

## **Discern Key Priorities for St. Timothy's**

Congregations and their needs are unique, but there are some guidelines and standard practices that every congregation should consider as it continues to plan for the future. The following section includes recommendations for St. Timothy's that are based on Partners' relationship with the congregation and our experiences helping other congregations across the country.

# Recommendations: Mission & Property

## Values and Vision Alignment

First and foremost, your congregation's mission should remain central to the discernment process. The more you engage the community, the greater likelihood that your community will engage you! Understanding your own mission, as well as the mission of your property, will help to ensure that new programs, initiatives, property decisions, or partnerships are aligned with St. Timothy's fundamental beliefs and values.

- Can you easily see how your mission and that of a potential space-sharer connect?
- Does your potential partner's mission extend your own in a positive way?

Jesus Feeds  
We Feast  
We Feed Others

# Recommendations: Communicate

## Transparency within your congregation

- **Share!** Members of the Asset-Mapping planning team should share this report and their own experience of the event with the rest of the parish in order to solicit additional feedback and to help discern next steps.

## Maintain the momentum of community conversations

- **Cultivate partnerships:** Follow up with all participants individually to better understand their organization's impressions, interests, needs, and how they might be willing and able to help realize an idea or initiative in the future. Invite participants to include your congregation in *their* updates, events, and partnering opportunities.
- **Remember your judicatory:** Update representatives from the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis and CBCP.
- **As per our CBCP assessment, review your congregation's website:** Does it include information (including images) of the spaces that received the most interest during the Asset-Mapping event?
- **Make facility tours a habit:** Were there individuals on the invite list who were not able to attend the Asset-Mapping event but expressed interest in St. Timothy's? Are there residents, businesses, or other congregations in the neighborhood who might be interested in a tour?

# Recommendations: Space + Staffing

## Space-sharing and staffing are interconnected

- **Develop or refine a space-use fee structure:** In general, congregations can “rent” space to another non-profit organization if they do not make a profit off of the arrangement (i.e. the revenue is directly tied to operating expenses, such as utilities, staffing, maintenance, etc.). Amend agreements to cover the tax that the state would level against the church for renting to for-profit or fee-for-service groups. The fee schedule may incorporate factors such as mission alignment and/or in-kind services.
- **Evaluate staffing needs and capacities:** Community partnerships require congregations to dedicate more personnel resources to the recruitment, management, and negotiation of space-sharing partnerships. There are additional operating costs (e.g. cleaning) and administrative hours for coordinating space-use between the congregation, current users, and new users. Additional staffing costs can (and should) be built into the space-use fee structure. Prioritize those mission-aligned, trustworthy partners who can provide their own staff, curricula, equipment, and liability insurance.



# Recommendations: Performance Space

Based on [“Arts in Sacred Places”](#) and other successful arts programming in religious venues, Partners encourages St. Timothy’s to consider the following space-sharing recommendations as it prepares to potentially offer others the use of the sanctuary as a performance space:

- Evaluate ways to temporarily neutralize religious iconography with curtains, screens, lighting, etc. The most important wall will be behind the chancel.
- Institutions with their own building facilities (schools, colleges) are less likely to need space. Youth choirs, orchestras, amateur, heritage, ethnic, or community groups, and music classes in need of recital space are more likely.
- Consider portable liturgical furniture for the future, including altar and altar rails.
- Refer to the possibility of using the sacristy, children’s room, and/or music room as dressing and green rooms.



A photograph of two women in a library. One woman, with short grey hair and wearing a pink sweater, is gesturing with her hands while talking to another woman with dark curly hair wearing a brown sweater. They are standing in front of a white bookshelf filled with books. A large window in the background shows a view of trees and a building outside. A semi-transparent dark grey box with the text 'Actionable Steps' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# Actionable Steps

## Translate ideas into concrete action

Asset-Mapping can generate big, exciting, complex ideas. Sometimes, the ideas can also feel overwhelming. Here are some tips for translating the outcomes from the Asset-Mapping event into concrete action:

- Break down ideas in small, manageable tasks.
- Assign specific tasks to individuals or groups to increase responsibility.
- Establish a reasonable 6–12-month timeline with milestones.
- Track, report, and *celebrate* small achievements. Giving an additional facility tour and sending a batch of follow-up emails makes a difference.

# Actionable Steps: Empower Parishioners

## Empower parishioners at St. Timothy's to take initiative and responsibility

To build off of the Asset-Mapping event, St. Timothy's will need to empower a group of parishioners to assess, develop, and implement the most compelling ideas that the participants generated. This group might be a standing outreach committee or it could be newly formed.

Most importantly, given that St. Timothy's is preparing for a leadership transition in 2025, this group should be able to work independently and report to the vestry. Parishioners should not wait to take action until after the leadership transition is complete.



# Actionable Steps: Communication

## Share this report with the parish and with others

- Add an event summary presentation as an agenda item for the next vestry meeting. Consider making an additional presentation after worship and facilitate an open discussion with parishioners during coffee hour.
- Recruit new volunteers. Some members of the Asset-Mapping planning team will want—and deserve!—to take a break. It will be especially helpful to recruit volunteers within the parish from the groups or partners you hope to serve.
- Refer to the Asset-Mapping findings and experience in future fundraising, including grant applications (see [CBCP Phase 2 matching grants](#)). The event demonstrates a capacity for, and commitment to, community engagement.
- Follow up with key government allies, such as the Area Representative from the Mayor's Office for the City of Indianapolis.

## Continue outreach with arts & culture organizations

- No representatives from an arts or culture organization attended the Asset-Mapping event. Consider hosting a facility tour specifically for these organizations, or staff from relevant educational institutions.





**SAINT  
TIMOTHY'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Partners  
for Sacred  
Places

# Actionable Steps: Website improvements

## Digital communication and online presence

- Review St. Timothy's online presence to evaluate whether or not it succinctly addresses the most compelling assets identified by participants at the event, especially the following pages:
  - “Connect” and “Community Connections”
  - “History”
  - “Staff”
- Include clear space-sharing information and inquiry instructions for long-term, short-term, and one-time users.
- Include illustrations of those spaces that the congregation hopes to share.
- Include contact information to receive a timely response with more information, such as rates and availability. If the parish administrator is not able to field these occasional requests, a trusted volunteer might be capable of doing so.
- Whenever appropriate, include images of sharing space and community engagement on your website, in addition to parish life.



# Actionable Steps: Staffing + Space-Use

## Staffing is essential

- Consider the challenges of planning the Asset-Mapping event and the coordinating responsibilities that will be necessary for any additional space-users. Whether full- or part-time, a parish coordinator who is responsive to inquiries and a clear communicator with clergy and parishioners will play an essential role in implementing any new initiatives, especially in the context of leadership transitions.

## Prioritize property improvements that support new space-sharing partnerships

- **Accessibility:** St. Timothy's facilities are already highly accessible. Follow-up with The Arc of Indiana about obtaining a third-party "accessibility audit" to understand more precisely how to improve and promote the accessibility of the congregation's facilities.
- **Upgrades to Craine Hall:** There was lots of positive feedback about Craine Hall at the Asset-Mapping event. It is a flexible, accessible, and neutral space (i.e. little to no religious iconography) that might serve the community in a variety of ways. Consider what A/V upgrades (streaming capability) and storage systems would make this space even more appealing to regular dance or yoga classes, town meetings, trainings, etc.
- **Secure access zones:** Depending on the number and type of space-use partners at St. Timothy's, long-term plans should include access features that allow different space-users (including children) to be on site at once.

# Actionable Steps: Priority Partnerships

## Institutional and higher-capacity partners

Although St. Timothy's might not have the operating budget or staffing capacity to directly implement a promising idea discussed at the Asset-Mapping event, implementation opportunities via reliable, higher-capacity partnerships might still exist. For example:

- Partnerships with organizations such as The University of Indianapolis Center for Aging & Community, might enable St. Timothy's to implement a mission-aligned program without requiring substantial staff or volunteer support.
- If the creation of a nature refuge at St. Timothy's seems like a daunting task, research organizations who do this kind of work regularly. For example, contact Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Indy Urban Acres, The Parks Alliance of Indianapolis, Indianapolis' Department of Natural Resources, or an organization such as Nature Sacred and tell them about St. Timothy's land and vision.



# Actionable Steps: Start Small!

## Implementation through incremental development

- **Small, but scalable; temporary, but potentially permanent:** New initiatives can start small and scale later based on additional feedback from the congregation or community. Build one raised bed with your master gardeners to gauge enthusiasm and support before constructing an entire community garden.
- **Inside-out:** Build off of already-existing ministries, programs, or space-sharers. If St. Timothy's is interested in hosting additional programming for children, highlight and support the scout troop to help others envision what is possible. If the congregation wants to engage the SouthSide's immigrant communities, ask parishioners from those communities to help with organization efforts.
- **Low-cost & flexible:** Before equipping rooms to make them more appealing to potential space-sharers, share space first and as-is to determine what the congregation would need to do to support the new partnership. For example, host the first "tai chi for seniors" class in Craine Hall before installing a camera to welcome virtual attendance.



# Appendix

Contact your congregation's Asset-Mapping planning team to read the list of assets and ideas from the event and view Asset-Mapping event photos. Access [Space-Sharing resources from Partners](#) online, including guidance on:

- Staffing
- Space-sharing policies
- Rental rates and policies for non-profit organizations

## Partners for Sacred Places

To learn more about our organization, our work, and to access additional resources, please visit [www.sacredplaces.org](http://www.sacredplaces.org) or contact us via email at [partners@sacredplaces.org](mailto:partners@sacredplaces.org).



*Above: L) Rev. Michael Curry, former presiding bishop and primate of the Episcopal Church  
R) Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis.*