

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH RESTORATION COMMITTEE  
REPORT FOR YEAR 2011  
For presentation at St. John's Church Annual Meeting, January 22, 2012**

**THE COMMITTEE:**

Dr. Walter E. Brown, Chairperson	Barbara A. Jamieson, Recording Secretary
Maureen Burke-Ventura, Architectural Advisor	Shawn I. Miller, Co-Recording Secretary
William F. Cissel, Historian and Bishop's Representative	Corinne Halyard-Plaskett, Fund-Raising
	Desmond V. Williams, Treasurer
<i>Ex-Officio:</i> The Rt. Rev. E. Ambrose Gumbs, Rev. Kerry Neuhardt, Rev. Robert B. Dendtler	

The Committee meets bi-weekly. Committee members receive no compensation or any financial benefit.

**AUTHORITY:**

The Restoration Committee functions by virtue of a Vestry resolution of February 2008, approved by the Bishop. The resolution authorizes the Restoration Committee to undertake on behalf of the Vestry the work of restoring the Church properties, including receiving, reviewing and approving all related proposals, bids, contracts, rentals, purchases, invoices or other obligations. The resolution also stipulates that all donations and funds held by the Church which have been designated for restoration and/or specific repairs be placed in a dedicated account managed by the treasurer for the Committee.

**ACTIVITIES in 2011:**

**Main Focus on Bell Tower:** The Committee had to deal with the removal of several hazards before Architect William A. Taylor could begin his contracted work to survey, document the existing condition of the Bell Tower, recommend necessary repairs in keeping with the Bell Tower's historical integrity and estimate the cost of those recommendations under current market conditions. Accumulated bird droppings made slippery by continual rainstorms had to be removed. Hazardous access to the tower roof was improved with a new platform and wooden steps and a new aluminum ladder. Two bee infestations had to be removed. The Public Works Department recommended that a canopy "umbrella" be installed to prevent bricks from falling on pedestrians and vehicles. This was completed in April. Architect Taylor's report on his survey was completed in August.

**Request to Church Insurance Group (CIG) to augment settlement:** The Committee appealed to the CIG to renegotiate the amount of the prior settlement for damages to the Bell Tower by the lightning strike of May 25, 2005. The CIG sent an adjustor, Alan C. Sueiro, to meet with the Restoration Committee, visit the site and inspect the Bell Tower with the architect to see the extent of the lightning damage. The Committee then worked with Architect Taylor to prepare cost estimates strictly related to the damage caused by the lightning strike of May 25, 2005. The "Lightning Damage Report and Expenses" was approved and sent to the adjustor on December 15, 2011 for inclusion in his report to the CIG.

**Request for Proposal (RFP) and Bids from Contractors:** Depending on the new settlement negotiations with the CIG, the Committee will work with the architect to prepare the criteria and specifications for an RFP for contractors to bid on the job of restoring the Bell Tower. Providing we can raise the funds needed, construction is projected to commence in early summer 2012.

**FUND RAISING APPEAL for \$500,000 continues.** There is a need for \$500,000 to fund the next phase of the larger restoration. Two volunteers, Linda Garvin and Robin Block-Taylor, visited EDC companies through the spring and early summer of 2011 to appeal for funds. They have not been able to continue because of the press of their own work responsibilities. The Committee has decided it will be necessary to retain a professional grant writer to research private foundations to apply for grant monies.

**New Monthly Restoration Envelopes in 2012:** Fr. Kerry Neuhardt instituted monthly envelopes in lieu of “second basket” collections on behalf of the Restoration. These special Restoration Envelopes are inter-leaved in the new larger boxes of pledge envelopes for 2012. This makes accountability clearer and more precise as contributions will go directly to Treasurer Desmond Williams to be recorded and acknowledged.

**National Register of Historic Places:** William Cissel has prepared the history and significance sections of the application of St. John’s Church to the National Register of Historic Places. The document awaits the completion of the architectural descriptive portion by an architect for the application to be complete before being forwarded to the State Historic Preservation Office.

**Topographical Survey of all church properties:** The dispute with the Government of the Virgin Islands over title to part of the churchyard (cemetery) is still not resolved.

**Underground Utilities:** Dr. Brown has written twice to Hugo Hodge, WAPA, requesting removal of utility poles and lines on King Street in the vicinity of the church property to place them underground. No reply has yet been received.

**Mailing Address:** The restoration committee’s post office box address is P.O. Box 725, Christiansted, VI 00821-0725. **Restoration Website is [www.stjcrestoration.com](http://www.stjcrestoration.com) . E-mail address is [info@stjcrestoration.com](mailto:info@stjcrestoration.com) or [jamiesonba@aol.com](mailto:jamiesonba@aol.com). Telephone is 340-514-0224.**

**Parish Directory:** A computerized parish directory is continually being updated by Shawn Miller.

### **ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE:**

**Treasurer** Desmond Williams reported at the meeting on December 12, 2011 that the balance carried forward from 2010 plus the deposits in 2011 total \$215,958.26, minus expenses paid out from inception to date of \$56,076.67, which includes \$8,062.50 paid in 2011 for architect's professional services, \$2200 for the platform and stairs and \$4,300.00 for the canopy. The new balance at the end of 2011 is \$159,881.59. We particularly appreciate the continuing generosity of the congregation in contributing to the Restoration, which total \$13,981.00 in 2011. Mr. Williams prepares and reports written monthly and annual financial statements to the Committee. Dr. Brown regularly reports to the Vestry about the Restoration Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Jamieson,  
Recording Secretary