



# ADVENT CHRISTIAN RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITIES OF CARING. SEASONED WITH GRACE.

## REPORT TO EASTERN REGIONAL ASSOCIATION DELEGATES

As part of the wider senior living profession, Advent Christian Retirement Communities finds itself in the paradox of both potential and peril. Since 2020, 774 nursing homes around the country have closed due to financial realities. At the same time, the senior living “market” is set to burgeon with the onset of aging baby boomers entering their 70’s and 80’s.

The uncertain path now traveled by providers of 24-hour senior care isn’t a strange one to Vernon Green – our nursing home at Vernon Homes in Vermont. Operating costs have strained our resources to the limit, requiring sober and realistic management of that campus in the next two years. At the same time, the prospect of our revolutionary vision for 24-hour nursing care (see below) hovers close to reality – a vision that, if realized, would establish Vernon Green as a regional leader and resolve the pressures noted above.

As I’ve shared before, however, there are good grounds for resolve. Vernon Green doesn’t stand alone: flanked by Vernon Hall and Vernon Birches on the Vermont campus along with Meetinghouse Village campus in Maine, our human and material resources as a whole serve to sustain our respective parts.

There’s also our historic profile as senior care innovators: one of our corporate values long before it became a popular survival strategy. For years, we’ve broadcasted the care model noted above called the “Green House.” This transformative model would replace the current Vernon Green with a “real home” approach to nursing care - displacing the traditional, hospital-like model familiar to many. Details can be found at [www.greenhousevt.org](http://www.greenhousevt.org).



A Green House Living Room

Two of three huge barriers in the pursuit of this innovation have been crossed: federal and state permitting. The last is financing – previously fairly assured until a revised construction estimate raised development costs by \$8 million. We are busy addressing this broadside through layered grant and loan opportunities, but it will postpone groundbreaking past the November 2025 date originally planned. That said, our board continues to trust in the grace of God to bring to fruition this long-held vision.

At Meetinghouse Village in Kittery, Maine, a major leadership transition took place as I stepped down from the Executive Director role to focus exclusively on publicity and fundraising for both our campuses. Scott Towle, a board member for 20 years, assumed that role, backed by a former career as Regional Financial Analyst for a national provider of nursing and assisted living communities.

Perhaps the most gratifying light on last year’s journey was the support from friends of ACRC. We received gift income of \$208,000 from our open-handed family of donors – one of the highest on record. These gifts – and the hearts behind them – help make possible the program distinctives and improvements that the fees we collect cannot.

We’re also grateful for the capacity at both campuses to subsidize Advent Christian pastors, missionaries, and other denominational workers whose income is not sufficient to meet care and residential needs. Continuation of our “Minister’s Fund” is gratifying since it was the founding principle on which the old “Vernon Home” was established in 1920.



North Campus, Meetinghouse Village

What’s not mentioned above is a hidden source of strength: our history of 105 years. ACRC and its communities stand on ground laid through servants whose names (Leavitt, Beecroft, Flewelling, Pender, Roberts, Andrews to name a few) stand as monuments to what God can do through faith and perseverance. Heeding the words from Leviticus, “Rise up before the aged and honor the gray-haired; I am the Lord,” they sustained a mission that we who follow them seek to make endure – even in the complexities of our times.

Respectfully,  
Larry Knowles, President

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