

# The Mission of St. Luke's and the Old Stone Church

**St. Luke's Mission Statement "Our mission is to deepen our relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We strive to do this by providing uplifting worship, comprehensive study, joyful fellowship, compassionate outreach and healing ministries.**

After several meetings trying to determine the dispensation of the Old Stone Church we have assembled various options and giving both its positive consequences and negative consequences.

But before we identify these options, a bit of history.

Last year several people saw our church mentioned on the Realtor's Lists. I learned of this action when Pam Roberts called for the key to show the church. Immediately I called Steve Abdow, the diocesan business manager, to say this action was premature. A decision to sell was not appropriate. Immediately, the listing was removed.

Prior to this Steve Abdow and Pam Roberts toured the church, they felt it was in good condition to be sold. Additionally, an historic specialist also toured the church was delighted with the building. These actions were taken as we saw the tower compromised, realizing that the windows, roof and tower repair were costing upwards of \$300,000, and knowing from the fund raising for the organ we as a congregation do not have the where with all to pay for the repairs. Additionally, there was uncertainty about having sufficient energy from the congregation to raise this amount of money—even with grants paying for half—assuming we could get the grants.

Once the listing was taken down, a meeting was called inviting everyone to brainstorm what we would do with the Old Stone Church.

After several meetings exploring ideas, various possibilities, with resulting conclusions, the following is a decision tree that can help us move forward in our decision making process.

## Overview of Our History

- 18<sup>th</sup> Century    Congregation founded  
                       Wooden church built in what was then the Town Center
- 19<sup>th</sup> Century    Stone church built on same site, still center of town  
                       Lanesboro one of the largest towns in the County  
                       At that time, churches did not need office space,  
                               Sunday School, plumbing, etc,  
                       Heating was supplied by coal stoves
- 20<sup>th</sup> Century    Parish House was built in new center of Village in 1898  
                       It rapidly became the primary church site both because of  
                               location and need for all the facilities which the OSC lacked  
                       Stone Church became secondary, used only for summer worship,  
                               and was abandoned in the 1950's  
                       Since the OSC was reopened, parish life has been based entirely  
                               at Village Church.  
                       Since re-opening for summer use, the OSC has required substantial  
                       capital infusions roughly once a decade
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century    Last capital campaign was unable to address  
                               the most pressing issues  
                       Recently rebuilt wooden tower is deteriorating  
                       Process underway to determine the Congregation's ability  
                               to provide the human and financial resources to sustain its  
                               three properties.

## Needs of our Properties: 1. The Old Stone Church

Now      Time, energy and funding to plan and carry out maintenance  
             Window Restoration (approx. \$200,000)  
             Interior Painting  
             Tower maintenance (also ongoing)

5 years   Roof  
             Pointing (ongoing)

*And needed if building to be available for other uses:*

Plumbing  
 Heating  
 Parking

## 2. The Village Church

Now      Time, energy and funding to plan and carry out maintenance  
             Parking Lot (drainage issues) and Fence  
             Cleaning of outside

Soon      Roof  
             Plumbing  
             Electrical  
             Furnace  
             Basement Floor  
             Kitchen and Dishwasher  
                 - minimum needs  
                 - upgrade for health code approval if we want to hold dinners  
             Accessibility  
             Back door

## 3. The Cemetery

Time and energy for management and maintenance  
 Repair of headstone (now and ongoing)  
 Endowment is adequate for the Cemetery's financial needs, but these restricted funds cannot be used for the support of any other church buildings or programs.

# Options

## Option 1: Do Nothing

### Consequences:

- Pro Have the Old Stone church to worship in for a few more years  
Hope a generous benefactor would pay for the repairs.
- Con Building continues to deteriorate

## Option 2: Keep the Church

### Consequences:

- Pro Have the Church we love to continue to worship in  
Raise money to pay for repairs  
tasks Get specific details as to needs  
Get Committee to Raise at least \$150,000  
Write grant for matching grant
- Con Need plan and funding for OSC ongoing maintenance  
Need plan and funding for Village Church ongoing maintenance  
No operating money for Village Church and Parking Lot  
For our aging congregation limited money & energy

## Option 3: Sell the OSC with organ

### Consequences:

- Pro Possibly have money to repair Village Church & parking lot  
Have additional funds in endowment for additional operating income  
Experience relief to no longer be responsible for OSC
- Con No longer have our precious OSC

#### **Option 4: Sell OSC without organ**

##### Consequences:

- Pro Possible additional income  
Could move organ to village church (at front behind Altar?)
- Con Have a committee to find buyer  
OR find a place to give/sell the organ

#### **Option 5: Find a non-profit entity to partner in re-use of OSC**

##### Results to date:

A task force has reached out through knowledgeable intermediaries  
Both the Trustees of Reservations and MassMOCA have been identified.  
Each has shown no interest

#### **Option 6 Establish a non-profit entity to take over the OSC**

##### Consequences:

- Pro OSC would be widely available to whole community, including us
- Con We'd have to recruit at least 3 non-church leaders with money  
and/or influence  
Non-profit would then take at least one year to set up  
Then fund-raising would begin

A PILIMINARY VOTE WILL BE TAKEN AT THE  
MAY 19 COUNCIL MEETING

ALL INVITED