

# St. James' Cathedral's new Cathedral Centre to break ground

***The long-awaited restoration of St. James' Parish House will break ground March 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. This comes at a time when the building, which has served the community since 1909, is in desperate need of repair. The project is scheduled for completion in 2011.***

Toronto, Ontario (St. James' Cathedral) January 18, 2010 – Just north of historic St. James' Cathedral stands her sister building, the St. James' Parish House. Built in 1909 and last refurbished over 50 years ago, it is now about to undergo a long-awaited restoration and expansion.

The existing three-story building has served over 500,000 Toronto residents through its Drop-in Centre, hosted numerous social and educational group meetings and activities, echoed countless hours of choir practice, welcomed hundreds of meetings from outside groups and provided a home for the archives and museum that chronicles the shared history of the Cathedral and the city of Toronto.

While the physical fabric of the Cathedral has been maintained and is in good shape, the Parish House is a different story. The building is in desperate need of repair if it is to continue to accommodate the needs of the community. Space for programming, offices and storage had become cramped and inadequate. Handicapped accessibility, kitchen, elevator, mechanical and electrical systems all were outdated.

The new "Cathedral Centre," as the Parish House is to be called, involves offices and program space as well as housing for clergy. While maintaining the historic façade and building along Church and Adelaide, the new construction will increase visibility with glass walls facing St. James' Park. The project is expected not only to create improved space for the Cathedral and community to expand and enrich outreach and programming, but to beautify the area with new landscaping and plantings.

Research and plans for the project have been in development for more than ten years. In 2008, the Cathedral retained the services of architectsAlliance, a firm known worldwide for urban and sustainable building plans. A ground-breaking ceremony will take place on Monday, March 8 at 10:00am, and among the guests will be City Councilor Pam McConnell. The Cathedral Centre is scheduled for completion in 2011.

About St. James' Cathedral:

Located at King and Church Streets in the heart of Old Town Toronto, St. James' Cathedral is an historic presence as well as a symbol of God's presence and love in the city. Its three-fold mission is to provide a spiritual sanctuary and a place of worship in the fullness of the Anglican tradition; to offer a welcoming hospitality to everyone, healing, hope, and opportunities to learn so that together we can build a community in a troubled

world; and to provide, as the seat of the Diocesan Bishop, a focal point for his ministry in the life of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto.

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