



Report of Cathedral Ridge to the 133rd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Colorado October 8-10, 2020

Mission: to provide both a sanctuary and a stimulating environment where people can connect meaningfully and find their lives transformed through relationship with God and one another.

Core Values:

- to provide innovative, transformative, creative Christian formation for all ages
- to embody excellence in hospitality
- to bring people together—to give life to all
- to offer sanctuary
- to be holistic stewards of all creation

Board of Directors:

Brian Bennett, President

Jay Swope, Treasurer

The Rt. Rev. Kimberly Lucas, Bishop of Colorado

The Rev. Krista Dias

The Rev. Wendy Huber

Nancy Jones

Erica Pomerenk

Bill Sweet

Angelina Thomson

Steve Vecchione

Executive Summary:

While this year did not unfold in the way any could have imagined, Cathedral Ridge is blessed with a physical site and staff that allowed for creative adaptation in this season. Camp and retreat ministry exists to gather people, so this time of physical distancing required reimagining how the Center could live into its core values of Christian formation, connection, creation care, sanctuary and hospitality.

Annual Report:

After a strong first quarter of welcoming youth group winter retreats, adult Realities Intensives, and Lenten formation, the Center closed for coronavirus prevention. When the stay-at-home order took effect, Cathedral Ridge offered its campus to Teller County to serve public health needs, whether as a field hospital or quarantine facility. Thankfully, that need has not been realized. As time wore on and it became apparent that summer camps and large gatherings would not be possible this year, the leadership began to look with new eyes at campus resources and core values. We listened to what people needed, and a new vision began to emerge. We heard people express their need to be safe, while also feeling stir-crazy and eager to experience a different setting. We began to reimagine hospitality and plan to meet the long term need for respite and self-care.

CATHEDRAL RIDGE

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In June, our coronavirus prevention safety plan was approved to reopen the cottages, camper hermitage and camping sites for individuals and families. Guests can bring their own food, or order take-out style meals from the kitchen. The pivot has been well-received. Cottages are averaging 50% occupancy, and pre-packed meal service is especially popular as people are weary of cooking. Several clergy and their families, some of whom had not been to Cathedral Ridge before, have enjoyed a Sabbath rest.

Three partnership opportunities emerged that have been a joy. The High Plains Region and St. John's Cathedral helped us mail camper care packages to clergy kids and youth campers. S'mores packs, butterfly seed gardens, and crafts were just a few of the favorite things to show how much we missed them this summer and can't wait to see them again. The Office of Faith Formation had organized a pilgrimage to walk a portion of the Camino de Santiago this fall. Instead of cancelling, they pivoted to create a Hybrid Camino, inviting people to walk wherever they lived. The group doubled in size, walking individually and gathering regularly online. Many pilgrims chose to walk a portion of their journey with Cathedral Ridge as their homebase. We also hosted the new cohort of the '20-21 Colorado Episcopal Service Corps as they quarantined for two weeks to safely form their household. As a service project, they helped install a beautiful Baltic wheel labyrinth at Aspen Chapel. We appreciate the Revs. Vanessa Glass and Terri Hobart who guided the project. The labyrinth is a wonderful new addition for prayer and reflection.

This fall, while cottages continue to be open for individual and family retreats, we are expanding our hospitality to serve small groups of fifteen or less. An updated safety plan allows for individual occupancy in lodge rooms and individually packaged take-out meals that can be enjoyed on the new dining hall patio. Area churches are booking the outdoor chapels to enjoy worship. Rectors are planning vestry retreats, grateful for safe space to have thoughtful conversations. In short, Cathedral Ridge is being utilized to the extent that it can under the circumstances. 2021 activities will be determined by progress towards testing, treatment and vaccine.

Because ministry took a different shape in 2020, the budget evolved as well. Unable to serve large groups and cancelling summer camps significantly reduced anticipated revenues, as well as expenses. Cathedral Ridge did receive relief through the Payroll Protection Program. The deficit will be less than originally budgeted, and people have experienced Cathedral Ridge in a new way, laying the groundwork for a fresh start in a new decade. This may be the best outcome possible in 2020.

Capital Construction: The Sage Dining Hall upgrades are complete, and remarkably suited for COVID needs: ample outdoor dining and general seating on the wrap-around patio, and roll-up garage doors that convert the interior into a screened-in porch provide safe gathering space. Bids are underway to do similar work at Lupine Lodge and create a new entrance road. This project will be the culmination of the Generation to Generation campaign. Further progress on the master plan will require another capital campaign, inviting discernment of programming priorities, whether to prioritize adult or youth facilities.