TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL CONCEPT PLAN PROPOSAL

| Applicant Information |
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| Name: Lisa Fischbeck, Rector |
| Address: PO Box 9 |
| City: <u>Carrboro</u> State: <u>NC</u> Zip: <u>27510</u> |
| Phone (Work): (919) 219-4437 FAX: E-Mail:Ef@nc.rr.com |
| Property Owner Information (included as attachment if more than one owner) |
| Name: The Episcopal Church of the Advocate Phone (919) 219-4437 |
| Address: PO Box 9 |
| City: <u>Carrboro</u> State: <u>NC</u> Zip: <u>27510</u> |
| Development Information |
| Name of Development: The Episcopal Church of the Advocate |
| Parcel ID #: 9870-82-7443 Historic District: Yes No |
| Address/Location: 8410 Merin Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27516 |
| Existing Zoning: R-1 (JPA) New Zoning District if Rezoning Proposed |
| Proposed Size of Development (Acres / Square Feet): <u>16,438</u> / <u>716,057</u> |
| Permitted / Proposed Floor Area (Square Feet): 47,885 / 41,300 |
| Minimum # Parking Spaces Required: 55/139 #Proposed 141 |
| Proposed Number of Dwelling Units:0 # Units per Acre0 |
| (134,730 new = 19.58%) Existing / Proposed Impervious Surface Area (Square Feet): 5,495 / 140,225 |
| Is this Concept Plan subject to additional review by Town Council? Yes |

Fee – See Planning Department Fee Schedule

Submittal schedule attached

The undersigned applicant hereby certifies that: a) the property owner authorizes the filing of this proposal b) authorizes on-site review by authorized staff; and c) to the best of his/her knowledge and belief, all information supplied with this proposal is true and accurate.

| Signature: Barbara | John Rowan | Date: | 11-16.08 |
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TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL

Presentations must be kept under 15 minutes as required by Town Council

Church of the Advocate Compliance with Comprehensive Plan Themes

1. *Maintain the Urban Services/Rural Buffer Boundary:* This policy was established in 1986 and has helped the community avoid the patterns of sprawl that characterize many high-growth areas. Maintaining the integrity of this boundary is of paramount importance and sets the context for the rest of the plan.

Not Applicable

2. *Participate in the regional planning process:* Because of the growth of the region and its inevitable impact on Chapel Hill, the Town cannot afford to plan for its future in isolation from the region as a whole. Instead, the community needs to be actively represented in planning and decision-making at the regional level.

Not Applicable

3. Conserve and protect existing neighborhoods: Some residential neighborhoods will face pressures for infill development and redevelopment. This is especially true for neighborhoods immediately surrounding downtown and the main campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). The character of these neighborhoods needs to be conserved.

We have invited all neighbors within 1000 feet to two (2) neighborhood meetings to advise them of our plans and intentions. Our plans and program have been well received by these neighbors and we have been encouraged by their support, their expressions of approval and by their constructive suggestions, especially their request that sufficient parking be provided on-site to avoid parking on the shoulder of Merin Road.

4. Conserve and protect the natural setting of Chapel Hill: The Town's beautiful natural environment, including open spaces, meadows, forested areas, scenic vistas, wildlife habitat, and creeks, lakes, and wetlands, is a key component of community character. While some of these areas are identified and protected, others need to be inventoried and guidelines established for their conservation.

The frontage of the parcel consists of an "orchard", with the existing building well set back from Homestead Road. Our proposal will preserve the "orchard" appearance. The building setback off Homestead will be increased, and the existing pond will be preserved. Overall, the amount of new impervious surface is very modest (19.6%). Some trees will be removed for construction and solar access, but almost all significant trees and most of those readily visible from roadways will be preserved.

5. Identify areas where there are creative development opportunities: Conversely, there are areas of Chapel Hill that represent opportunities for growth and/or redevelopment that support community objectives. Identification of these areas and consideration of creative new development forms, such as "mixed-use" and "conservation" developments, is an important part of achieving a positive future for Chapel Hill, in a manner that meets the needs of current and future residents and enhances community life.

Because of the low amount of impervious surface and preservation of existing viewscape, in many ways this proposal is a "conservation" development plan for this tract. It will provide a great deal ore conservation than if it were develed 1 into 20 to 40 residential units, as allowed by the underlying zoning. The neighbors have commended our plans for helping to conserve and protect their existing neighborhood.

6. Encourage desirable forms of non-residential development. Maintaining a mix of private, non-residential uses (e.g., office, retail, and service establishments) is important to the future health and economic vitality of the community. In addition to augmenting the tax base, appropriate forms of non-residential development can help achieve such objectives as making it easier for people to live and work in Chapel Hill, increasing local shopping opportunities, and supporting mixed-use development forms.

We believe our proposal firmly complies with this theme. Along Homestead Road, there is or will be a variety of residential and non-residential uses: commercial, governmental, community, public safety, public park, and now a worship facility. We believe our proposal will help maintain a diversity of residential and non-residential uses along Homestead Road.

7. Create and preserve affordable housing opportunities: The historic and valued diversity of Chapel Hill is threatened by a robust housing market that results in high housing costs. Aggressive intervention tactics can help ensure that some segments of Chapel Hill's housing stock will remain affordable to low, moderate, and middle income families in the future. By emphasizing affordable housing, the Town can help maintain Chapel Hill's traditional socio-economic diversity.

Not Applicable

8. *Cooperatively plan with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill:* The fulfillment of the missions of UNC and the UNC Health Care System will be accompanied by growth of those institutions. Good communication and cooperative planning are critical to assuring that this growth can be absorbed by and integrated into the surrounding community.

Not Applicable

9. Work toward a balanced transportation system: This plan suggests an aggressive, new approach to transportation. This approach shifts the emphasis from the automobile to other means of travel – walking, biking, transit, and park-and-ride – in order to achieve a community-wide, multi-modal transportation system. One positive result of efforts in this direction should be increased use of non-automobile forms of transportation. However, another result is likely to be increased levels of traffic congestion, as the emphasis shifts away from widening streets and accommodating automobiles as the top transportation priority.

Until Public transit is provided along Homestead Road, our proposed project will be served by auto, walking, biking and railroad. A future greenway trail will be nearby. We propose to provide a complete network of pedestrian and bike parking facilities to encourage the greatest possible multi-modal travel. We note that the use of this facility will not occur during congested weekdays nor during peak weekday travel hours.

10. Complete the bikeway/greenway/sidewalk systems: A major component of the new transportation approach is an aggressive program to complete Chapel Hill's town-wide network of sidewalks, bikeways, and greenways.

Our proposal extends public sidewalk along the Homestead Road and the Merin Road frontage and throughout the proposed campus.

11. Provide quality community facilities and services: With the continued growth of Chapel Hill and UNC, parts of the Town are developing a more urban character and form. This growth creates the need to develop or upgrade community facilities and services in order to provide the level of quality that citizens expect.

We believe our development fully complies with this theme. Worship facilities provide many benefits to our community and its citizens. Besides meeting their spiritual needs, worship facilities provide a wealth of community support, outreach, meeting spaces, sponsoring of community groups, all being important additions to community facilities and services. The Church of the Advocate will, as it grows, become a new leader in supporting our entire community and its people.

12. Develop strategies to address fiscal issues: Many of the recommendations of this plan require sound funding programs to ensure implementation. This fact, combined with a desire to maintain and improve the fiscal health of the community, suggests the need to develop specific strategies to allow us to identify how we will pay for what we want.

Not Applicable

Statement of Justification, Owner's Program and Statement of Compliance Episcopal Church of the Advocate

A. Existing Use Summary and History Presented by the Church

The Episcopal Church of the Advocate was launched September 21, 2008 as a mission church of 50 people, sponsored by the three established Episcopal parishes in Orange County -- St. Matthew's in Hillsborough and The Chapel of the Cross and Church of the Holy Family in Chapel Hill. The Advocate was born of the health, vitality, and generosity of spirit of these three congregations, in order to respond to the growing population in Orange County and to provide a church home to those who may be drawn to being part of a new church community of the liturgical and sacramental tradition. We have, in a relatively short period of time and with a relatively small number of congregants, established ourselves in the Carrboro/Chapel Hill Community as a presence for ministry, service, advocacy, and prayer. We are known for our creative and engaging worship and for a spirit of inclusive hospitality.

Because we have not had our own land and building, we have rented space for worship and office. In our first year, 2003-2004, we rented worship space each Sunday afternoon from the Unity Center for Peace on Sewell School Road, around the corner from the Homestead Road site. When our congregation grew beyond 75 people, we needed more space for worship, and in 2004 we moved our Sunday worship to the Chapel Hill Kehillah, a synagogue on the corner of Mason Farm Road and Purefoy Road. Worshipping in a synagogue has further shaped our identity as a Christian community deeply committed to being engaged with people and the community beyond our selves, taking our part in "the repair of the world".

We also rent a small building at 403 West Weaver Street for office and other-than-Sundayworship activities. From that building we have sponsored ESL classes and held book discussions, small prayers groups, Bible studies, and intimate music gatherings.

We are a community rooted in the ancient traditions, but clearly born in the 21st century. Our worship is "unplugged", with no amplification, and we love to sing a cappella. We meet for worship at 5 PM, and share supper together afterwards. We are likely to add a morning service as well in the year ahead. We are strongly committed to preserving and sustaining the environment and working to bring an end to racism and other injustices in our community and in our world. From the start we have participated in the work and ministry of the InterFaith Council and with Club Nova, a Carrboro-based program for severely and chronically mentally ill adults. We have also been involved from the ground up with the Orange County Organizing Committee, working to develop a broad-based organization of congregations and other non-profits to take collective action in the name of justice and the common good in Orange County. And we committed to "the Advocate Tithe", giving a minimum of one-tenth of all a pledged and plate offering to individuals and programs in need beyond "the walls" of the Advocate. Now five years old, we are a congregation of about 160 people from 80 households, with average Sunday attendance of about 75. We are excited at the prospect of having land and buildings from which to do ministry, allowing us to grow more fully in every dimension. Our hope is to become a congregation of 400 or so, then to be part of starting another community of faith, elsewhere in the County. Our goal is not to become a large church, but to be a church large enough to be strong and stable, supporting one another and contributing actively and faithfully to the town, the county and the world of which we are a part.

B. Owner's Program

<u>PHASE ONE</u>: We will deconstruct the existing one-story 3,000 sq. ft. brick dwelling and build an approximately 3,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art sustainably designed facility consisting of a Welcome Center, Administrative Offices and a 75-seat chapel. A new parking area will allow for 30 spaces, and will be screened from Homestead Road by a restored orchard. A pathway system around the existing pond will connect these features with the proposed new project, and with a playground located on the northwest side of the pond. Water and sewer will be on site.

<u>PHASE TWO</u>: The proposed project is a one-story 10,000 sq. ft. sustainably designed building accommodating worship space, fellowship space with a screened porch, a kitchen, restrooms, and classrooms. We believe this structure will respond to our commitment to affirm and welcome to our community and worship life, people of every kind of household and every stage of life and faith and doubt, our commitment to working for peace and justice in the world in which we live, our commitment to preserving the environment, and our commitment to reaching out to those who do not have a church home and who may not be drawn to a more traditional time or place of formality for worship.

The Episcopal Church of the Advocate formed a Steering Committee in May 2008, as well as Sub-Committees on Site Planning, Church Growth, and Congregational Engagement. It has been important to obtain and value input from all members of our congregation as we have undertaken this project, and the Steering Committee has encouraged their involvement at each step in the process.

We have held two meetings with people from surrounding neighborhoods, and have also incorporated their suggestions and addressed their concerns along the way.

The architect for the concept design phase of the project is Bruce Johnson-ARCHITECTURE, PA, a specialist in environmentally sensitive custom projects. He is the designer of our campus master plan, which reflects a multi-year, multi-phase development. We have worked closely with Bruce Johnson to assess the site, gather information, and develop a written program based upon our mission and vision. With this program as a reference for design decisions, specific uses of the property evolved and our concept plan emerged. Innovative Design,Inc, a nationally recognized firm in the field of energy efficient sustainable architecture, has been retained as Architect of Record to prepare all construction documents necessary to obtain our building permits. Buildings for all phases of the proposed project will evaluate the cost/benefit and use of all types of sustainable, green design elements. These include, but are not limited to, passive and active solar space heating and domestic hot water, geothermal space heating and cooling, photovoltaic systems, daylighting systems, rainwater harvesting, use of reclaimed and recycled materials, and low voc finishes.

Water and sewer lines for the Phase Two building will be tied into the existing lines. Sidewalks will be installed along the Homestead Road frontage, and along the statemaintained portion of Merin Road.

A parking lot, located on the west side of the site and constructed in two sections divided by the Merin Road entrance, will hold 51 vehicle spaces, bicycle racks, and a Masonry Wall-screened dumpster and recycling area. This area is flanked by a 25-foot buffer on the west (along Merin Road) and an extensive planted landscape screen on the east. Mulched footpaths will connect all phases of the project, including Phase One, the Phase Two building, parking areas, playground, an al fresco chapel, and a contemplative labyrinth.

A 12,000 sq. ft. space will be cleared during Phase Two for a community garden, which will become a parking lot in Phase Three.

<u>PHASE THREE</u>: This long-term portion of the project provides for up to four buildings:

- (1) One-story community assembly and youth building -6,500 sq. ft.
- (2) Two-story cottage/parsonage 5,000 sq. ft.
- (3) Two-story non-profit office building for outreach 12,000 sq. ft.
- (4) One-story retreat and education center -5,000 sq. ft.

Parking will be extended to provide for an additional 60 vehicles, and will be screened by landscaping. Footpaths will continue to connect all areas.

C. Specific Criteria

The project has been designed and will be developed in accordance with the Town's Design Guidelines and with LUMO.

- A substantial buffer, preserving the "orchard" appearance, will be maintained along the Homestead Road Frontage. The closest development will be 200 feet from Homestead Road, and the majority of new development will occur 800 feet north of Homestead Road. Likewise, the two old barns and the pond will be preserved as much as possible and a good "viewscape" will be provided along Merin Road. The Church is studying the best way to preserve the two old barns.
- The buildings are oriented for the best solar access for heating and cooling and will front toward Homestead Road. Parking will be along the west and north sides, well shielded from Homestead Road.
- The existing pond and the associated RCD area will be preserved.
- The plan will provide easy circulation for refuse/recycling vehicles and adequate, dispersed entry/exit points for on-site traffic. Sufficient on-site parking will be provided to avoid the need for shoulder parking along Merin Road.
- Public water, sanitary sewer and sidewalk will be extended into this neighborhood along Merin Road, providing substantial benefits to the existing neighbors.
- The proposed use will provide a good transition from higher intensity uses to the east, as a form of protection to the Merin/Billabong neighborhood.
- The proposed use as a Place of Worship will have very low or no impact on schools, school traffic, weekday traffic, and public services.
- The development will have state-of-the art facilities for energy conservation, recycling, use of renewable and sustainable materials, and the conservation of valuable resources such as energy and water. Stormwater runoff will be effectively controlled. The existing RCD will be preserved and enhanced.
- Water Quality will be preserved by placing stormwater controls close to the source of runoff, by dispersing runoff and control facilities to the maximum extent possible and by using "low impact" methods such as rain gardens, bio-retention areas and the like, to treat and manage runoff.

D. Required Findings and Statement of Compliance

FINDING #1

"That the use or development is located, designed and proposed to be operated so as to maintain or promote the public health, safety and general welfare".

This development will bring OWASA public waterlines and public sewer lines into the Merin Road/Billabong neighborhood; this neighborhood has previously been served by wells and individual septic systems. Likewise, a public sidewalk will be extended. The proposed use as a Place of Worship is a permitted use in the R-1 district, with frontage on an arterial street, Homestead Road. Vehicular access will be off Merin at the one existing location and at two new locations along Merin, so as to provide the least amount of congestion along Merin Road. The plan purposes 141 on-site parking spaces, which the applicant believes will be sufficient to prevent any shoulder parking along Merin Road. In all aspects, by extending public utilities and sidewalks, and by providing sufficient on-site parking and access points, the development will promote public health, safety and welfare.

FINDING #2

"That the use or development complies with all required regulations and standards of this chapter, including all applicable provisions of Articles 3 and 5 and the applicable specific standards contained in Article 6 and with all other applicable regulations".

The applicant believes the development complies with all regulations and standards, as is not aware of any exceptions to Town standards or design guidelines that would be required for approval.

FINDING #3

"That the use or development is located, designed and proposed to be operated so as to maintain or enhance the value of contiguous property, or the use or development is a public necessity."

While the use is not a public necessity, the development will provide substantial benefits to the neighborhood and especially to contiguous property. The site is surrounded by an arterial road to the south, low density residential to the west and north and a railroad and a townhouse development and Town Open Space to the east. As a Place of Worship, it will provide a good transition from higher density residential/railroad uses. The development will preserve the "orchard" viewscape along the Homestead Road frontage. The use as a Place of Worship will provide needed public utilities and sidewalks, but will not burden

schools or roadways, nor cause additional weekday congestion nor the need for new extensive public services.

FINDING #4

"That the use or development conforms with the general plans for the physical development of the Town as embodied in this Chapter and in the Comprehensive Plan".

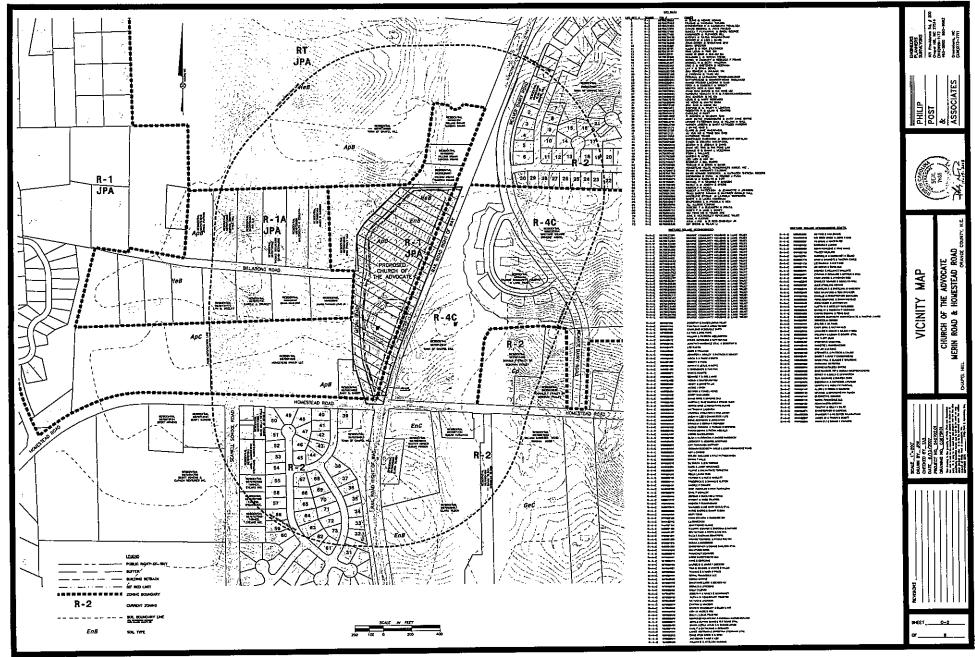
Places of Worship are permitted in this zone, adjacent to an arterial road.

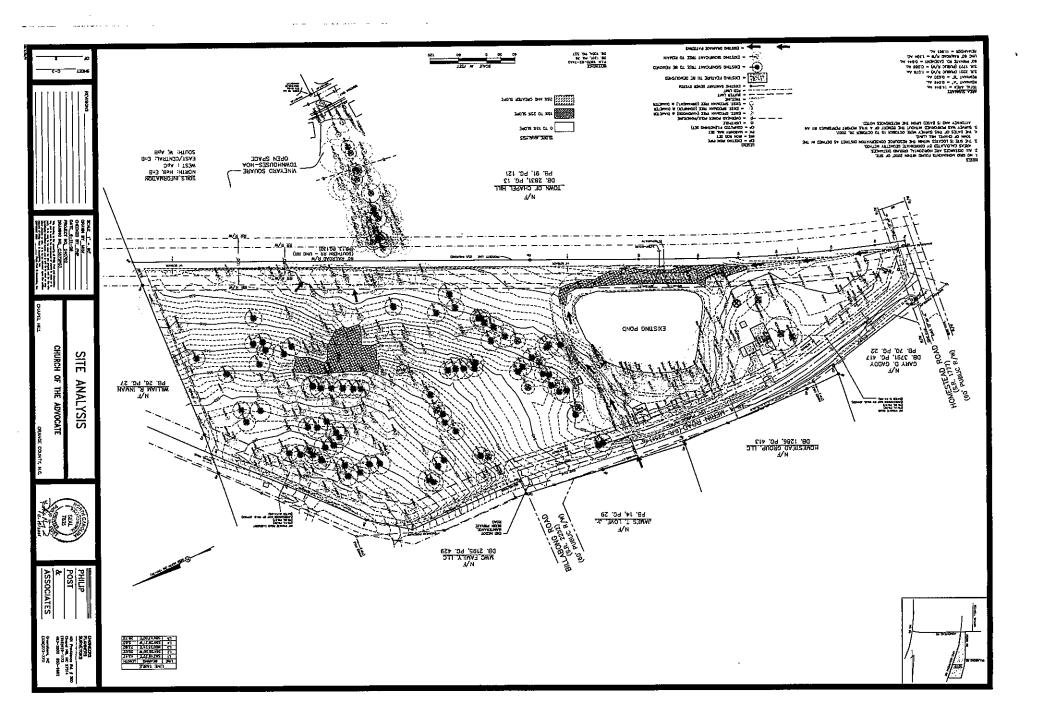
The use will provide a good transition to help protect the Merin/Billabong neighborhood.

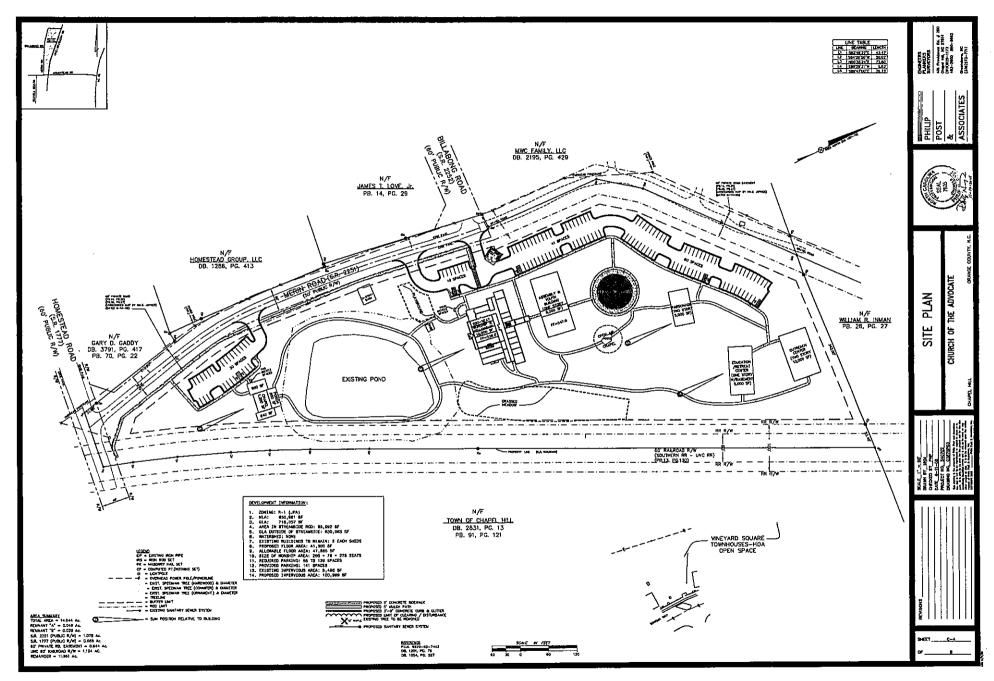
The "orchard" viewscape along Homestead Road will be preserved. Public Utilities and sidewalks will be extended into the neighborhood.

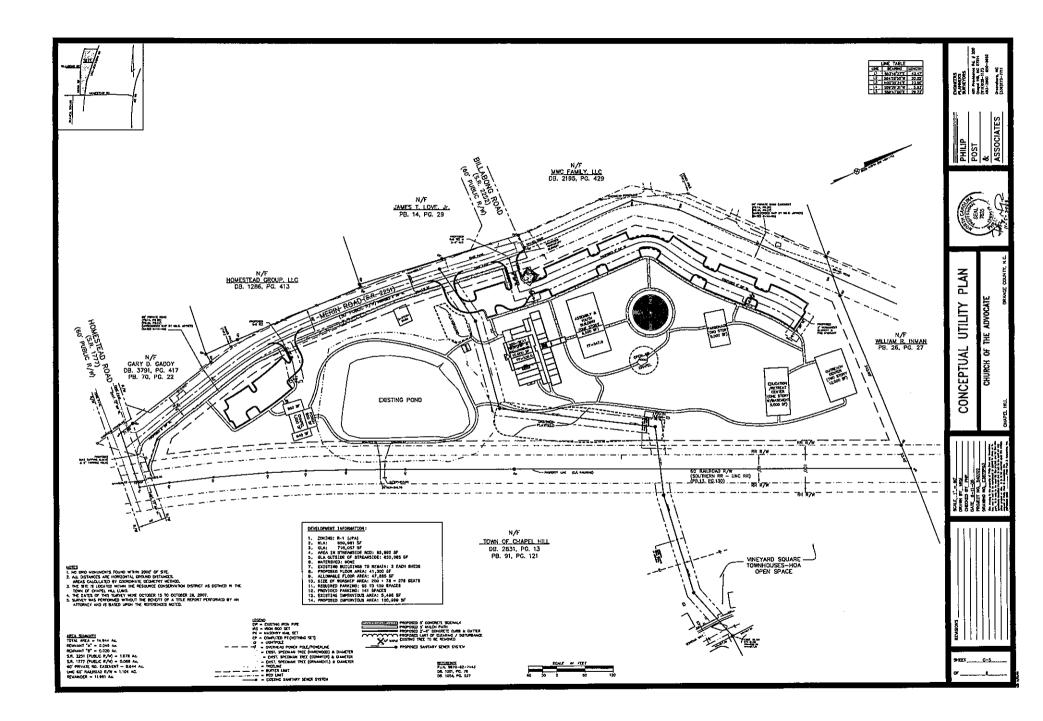
The development will have virtually no impact on schools, weekday traffic or public services. The proposed use is contemplated by the Comprehensive Plan and will be compatible with existing development and will be compatible with all surrounding properties.

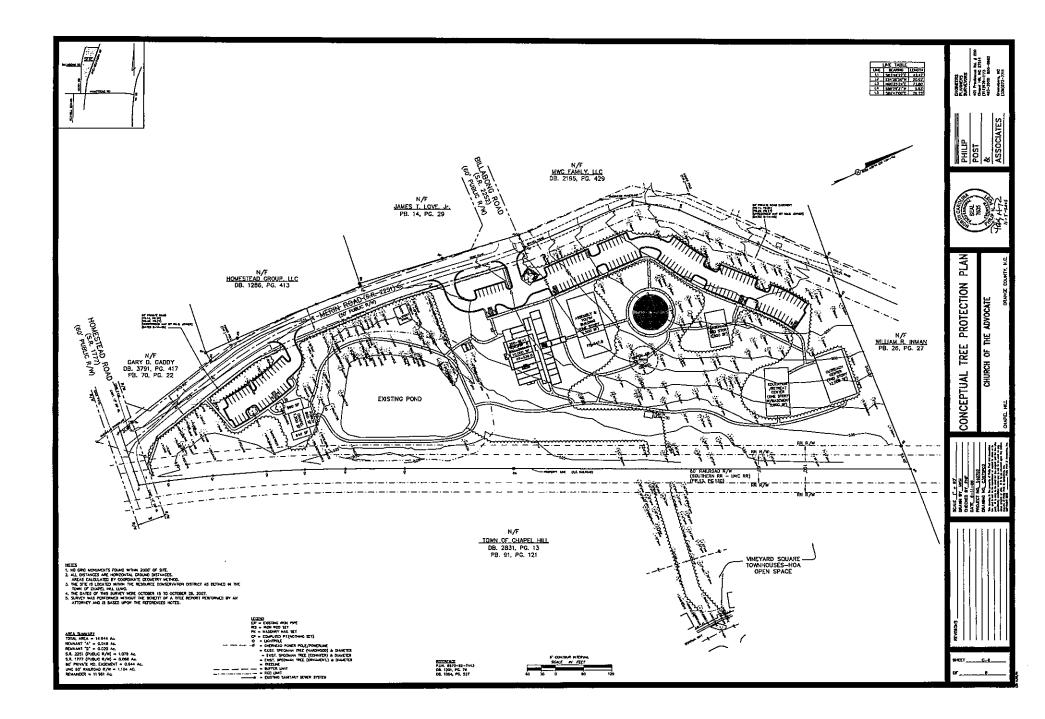
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| CIVIL ENGINEER PHILIP POST & ASSOCIATES 401 PROVIDENCE ROAD SUITE 200 CHAPEL HILL, NC 27514 TEL. (919) 929-1173 FAX: (919) 493-4568 | ARCHITECT BRUCE JOHNSON, AIA ARCHITECTURE 66 FOREST ROAD ASHEVILLE, NC 28803 TEL. (828) 274-3922 EMAIL: bjaia@charter.net | OWNER THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF TH REVEREND LISA G. FISHBECK, P.O. BOX 9 CARRBORO, NC 27510 TEL. (919) 219-4437 EMAIL: lgf@nc.rr.com | E ADVOCATE RECTOR | | 24672 |



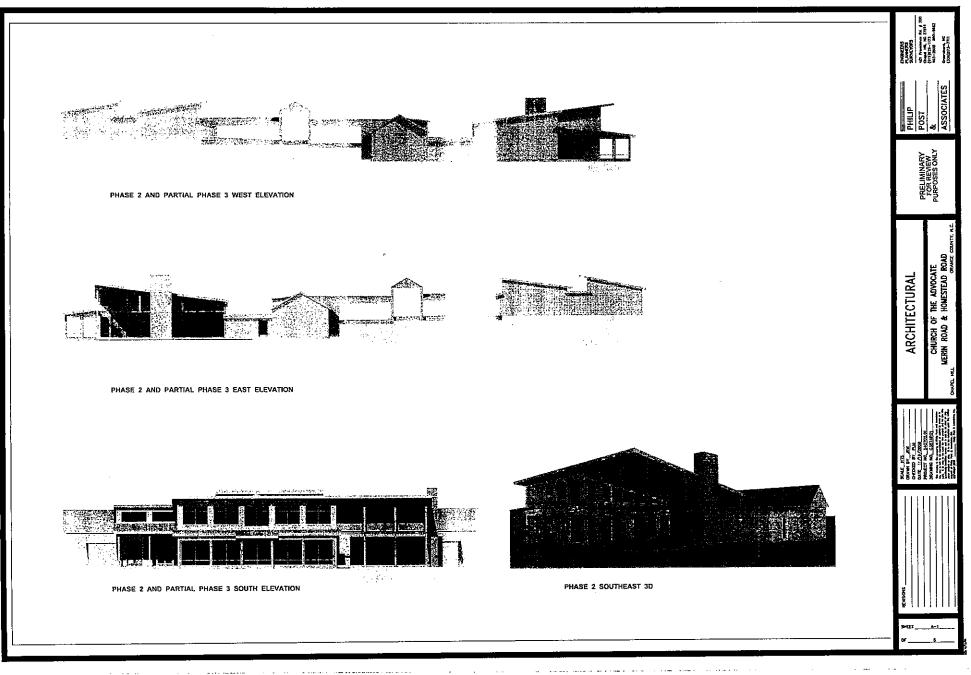








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