Joining Jesus:
Camp Washington
CASE FOR SUPPORT
There are many ways that we can share our faith. Camp and retreat ministry is known to be an effective way to connect youth and adults to God’s mission through the beauty of creation, the quiet of nature, and the relationships that are built in these sacred places.

Camp Washington, ECCT’s camp and retreat center, has been a site for spiritual retreat and renewal for over 100 years, set on 300 acres in the Lakeside section of Morris, in the beautiful Litchfield Hills of Connecticut. It is a sacred place where God’s love for the world, made known to us in Jesus Christ, is shared with all God’s people through the ministry of hospitality. From summer camp to adult retreats to diocesan events, **Camp Washington is a place for reflection and renewal, education and training; for exploring and experiencing God’s mission of restoration and reconciliation.**

Led by Bart Geissinger for the past five years, Camp Washington has been working hard, listening to what God is calling us to do in our neighborhood and the larger world. Camp Washington is evaluating programs to offer retreats and opportunities of interest to all they welcome to Camp. Through the Episcopal Church in Connecticut’s *Joining Jesus* campaign, facilities enhancements and expanded programming will help further **establish Camp Washington as the primary resource for Christian formation and discipleship for children and adults in Connecticut.**
Camp Washington is the Episcopal Church in Connecticut’s place for discipleship: **where we walk with Jesus to grow in our faith.** It is a place of acceptance, joy, and renewal for all of God’s people, of all ages – place for youth and adults, kayakers and knitters, vestries and clergy in formation. At Camp Washington, we provide opportunities for multigenerational experiences that enrich and transform. At Camp, you can relax and unwind and explore and connect: with yourself, with each other, and with Jesus.
**Capital Needs**

Camp Washington is a brave space for discovery, creativity, and spiritual growth.

Camp Washington’s 300 acres and 15 buildings are bustling with year-round activity. Camp aspires to expand its ministry so that more and more varied programming can be hosted here. In order for Camp to fully realize its vision, there are a number of capital projects being considered.

Camp’s rustic dining hall, currently serves as space to gather for meals, but also to host small workshops, as well as space to use in the event of inclement weather. A **covered outdoor dining pavilion** will allow for additional dining and event space. Visitors could enjoy a morning cup of coffee outside in the fresh air, Campers could gather around a roaring fireplace in the autumn evenings. And attendees could move seamlessly from a worship or lecture in Kenyon Hall to dine outdoors, without the need to rearrange space.

Camp currently has a basketball court that needs to be **reimagined**, with plans to add additional courts for pickle ball and tennis. This will provide for **expanded recreational options** for youth and adult visitors alike.

Currently, our much-loved art barn shares a building with our maintenance shed. This means that, often, creativity co-exists alongside fumes and loud noise. The construction of a **stand-alone art barn** will be an investment in the **spiritual nature of art** and will provide dedicated space where we can be **creative with our creator**.

Camp Washington has no dedicated indoor Chapel space. As an Episcopal camp and conference center, a **dedicated sacred space** would be spiritually transformative.

Finally, Camp Washington currently has 21 rooms which share 11 bathrooms, and nine showers. Although Camp is rustic, many desire private bathrooms when on retreat. With the exploration and addition of a **new retreat center facility**, we will enhance existing adult programs and retreat opportunities with new rooms, each double occupancy, with private baths.
God’s love is creatively alive at Camp Washington. So many people in the world are longing to know God’s love. Camp raises up and nurtures diverse leaders of all ages and seeks to be a brave space to dream and try on new ideas. Join us as we are called upon to build this important ministry and expand the dream.

- The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan
Sustaining Excellent Programs

Camp Washington is a year-round space for discipleship rooted in God’s creation and love.

As a faith community, dedicating resources to enhancing programming will allow us to increase our offerings, including recreational activities, faith formation and spiritual offerings, group and individual retreats, lectures and workshops addressing spiritual and social justice issues, and fellowship opportunities for members of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut and others.

To better fulfill our roles as Environmental Stewards in caring for God’s Creation, we plan to incorporate experiential learning opportunities for children, youth and adults exploring best practices for sustainable living. Camp Washington would also like to model Environmental Stewardship by exploring renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power. The development of a small agricultural program that supports learning in creating community gardens, growing food, composting, and “backyard livestock” can make sustainable living accessible to more people in our growing community.

Additionally, we envision:

— Family camp opportunities
— LGBTQ+ programming
— Special needs camping opportunities
— Expansion of adult programming
— Programs that support and enhance parish ministries
— Programs for college and university students
— Opportunities to partner with other organizations and denominations, sponsoring programs together or offering our venue for their use

New staff is required to continue to offer an excellent youth camp experience:

— A small endowment to supplement summer staff salaries would allow Camp Washington to continue to attract the best summer counselors
— A seed fund to hire a behavior specialist to support our staff and work directly with campers would ensure that we are accessible to all campers and that our staff are supported in attending to camper’s socio-emotional needs
We are deeply grateful for your support and enthusiasm of our work in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut through the years. For your service and generosity, I thank you.

Through your giving, you will have a substantial lasting effect on the Episcopal Church in Connecticut at this pivotal time, as we seek to join Jesus in a new missional age.

We now invite you to consider a truly transformative, visionary commitment to Camp Washington and the Episcopal Church in Connecticut.

Your gift will provide experiential opportunities at Camp Washington that form disciples across generations in this new missional age.