

The Future of the Mount Olivet 1700 Chapel



A Community Conversation - August 17, 2026



A Community Gathering Place Anchored by a Coffee House & Taproom



Overarching Goal: Serve the Community

Foster Connection



Environmentally Sustainable

Promote Neighborhood Involvement



Serve the Community



“Parish”





Serve the Community

Run as an independent Not-for-Profit
— all net proceeds go back to the community

This is not to make money to support church ministries,
or to attract young people, etc.

This is to bring people together and enrich the life of our community



Fostering Connection

Provide space for community groups to gather, meet, hold events
Afterschool tutoring, parent education, community classes and events, neighborhood associations,...

Foster community to address “the pandemic of isolation”
Coffee house / beer / food / events— 3rd space (not work, not home)



Environmentally Sustainable

One of the primary reasons for building new

Re-use as much of the existing materials as possible

Build within a similar footprint for environmental and parking reasons

Explore a variety of sustainable building measures: geo-thermal heating/cooling, gray water, solar, etc.



Promote Neighborhood Involvement

Host Community Group activities, events, and fundraisers

Digital “notice board” to learn where you can get volunteer

Themed evenings — Majong Mondays, Trivia Tuesdays, book clubs, dedicated service nights/groups, etc.

Working Title/Name: The Mount Olivet Volunteer Public House

“The Volunteer” for short — *“I’ll see you at The Volunteer at 6!”*

Since we last met...

Update #1: Permission to move forward with demolition/deconstruction

After being denied permission to demolish by the Heritage Preservation Commission in February, we successfully appealed that decision to the City Council in March.

If someone should ask: While it was our original intent to reuse/modify the existing building, we finally could not because a) the price was too high — over \$11M just to get the building to code and b) ultimately some of the key walls were too saturated with moisture to invest that with confidence.

We can now build a more environmentally sustainable building to suit our hoped for purposes.

Since we last met...

Update #2: Shift away from brewery to more of a tap room serving local beers.

A desire to lift up the community-space element of this rather than see it primarily as a brewery.

Avoid the risk of building and operating a brewery when beer sales are slipping and breweries are closing.

Save money and space that could be used in other ways.

Mitigate concerns about hop smell.

Seize this as another opportunity to strengthen the community by lifting up other local breweries rather than competing with them.

Operate with the same “local” mentality when it comes to coffee.

Since we last met...

Update #3: Addressing a few questions from last June:

Updates: mtolivet.org / News & Updates / 1700 Project

Parking/traffic — explore diverting alley to Knox or James rather dropping into 50th; retain close to the same number of parking spaces as currently.

Hop smell - no brewery, no smell :)

Foundation work (vibrations from sinking concrete pilings)

1) Until we get closer to construction and test existing foundation and soil, we won't know what we need to address — we will keep the community updated.

2) Explore a variety of ways to establish a firm foundation: larger spread footings, drilled piers (not driven pilings), geopiers to help increase the bearing capacity of the soils and reduce the need to drive piles, etc.

3) Work with construction partners to mitigate vibrations & address concerns.

Since we last met...

Update #4: Next Steps

Re-zoning application — 60% of neighbors within 100 ft of the project site
Send letters out to households; invite individual and/or group conversations

Design phase — HGA

Other city permissions related to design work & city-approved business plan

Establish partnerships with breweries/coffee houses

Deconstruction (rather than demolition) to preserve materials for re-use

Construction





HGA



Todd Kraft & Michelle Hammer



Your questions, thoughts, suggestions

(Please share your name and address.)