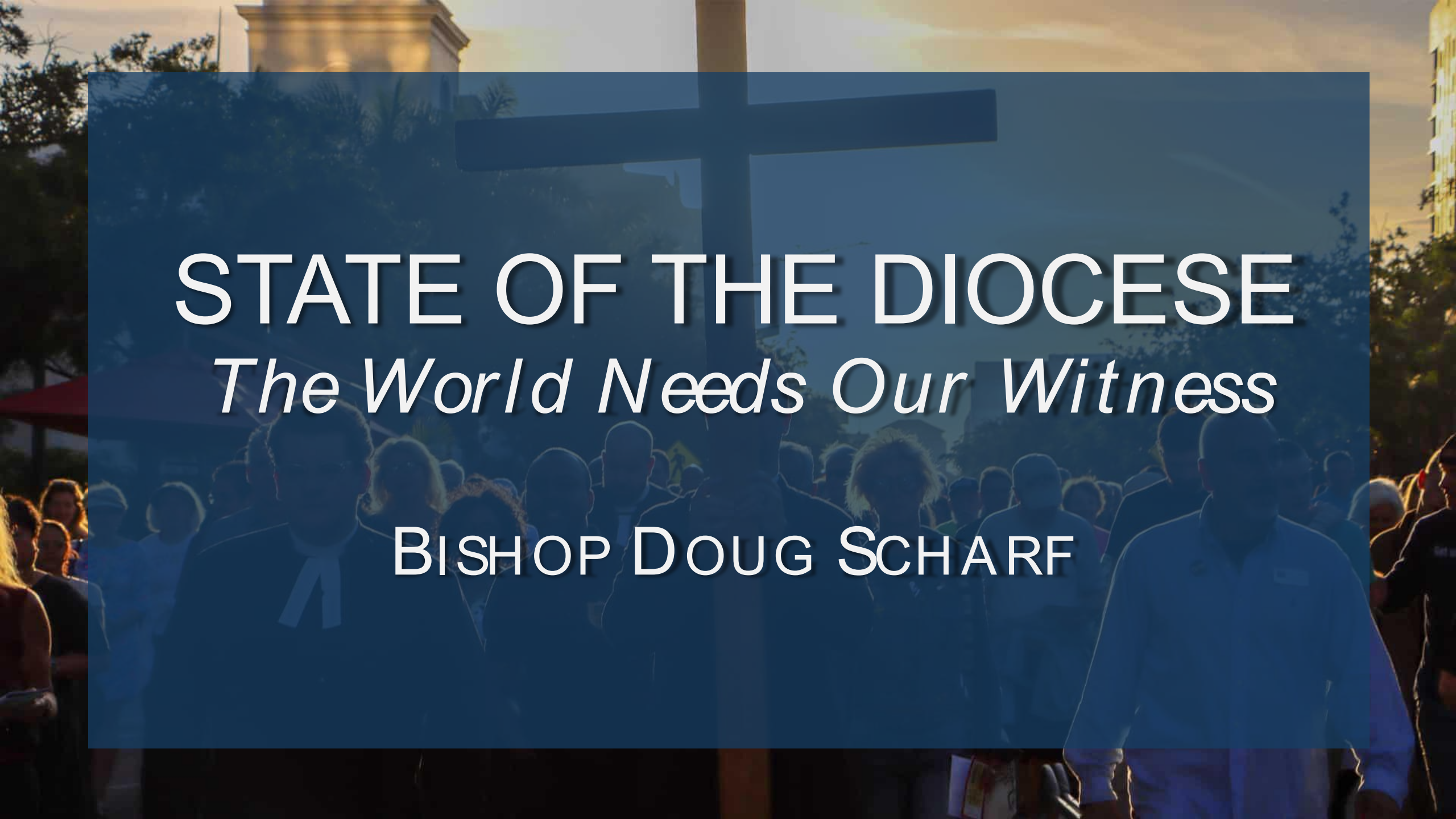


ONE Witness

58th ANNUAL CONVENTION | DIOCESE OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA



STATE OF THE DIOCESE

The World Needs Our Witness

BISHOP DOUG SCHARF



PART ONE

Our Witness in an Uncertain World

PART TWO

Our Witness in Southwest Florida

PART THREE

Our Witness at DaySpring

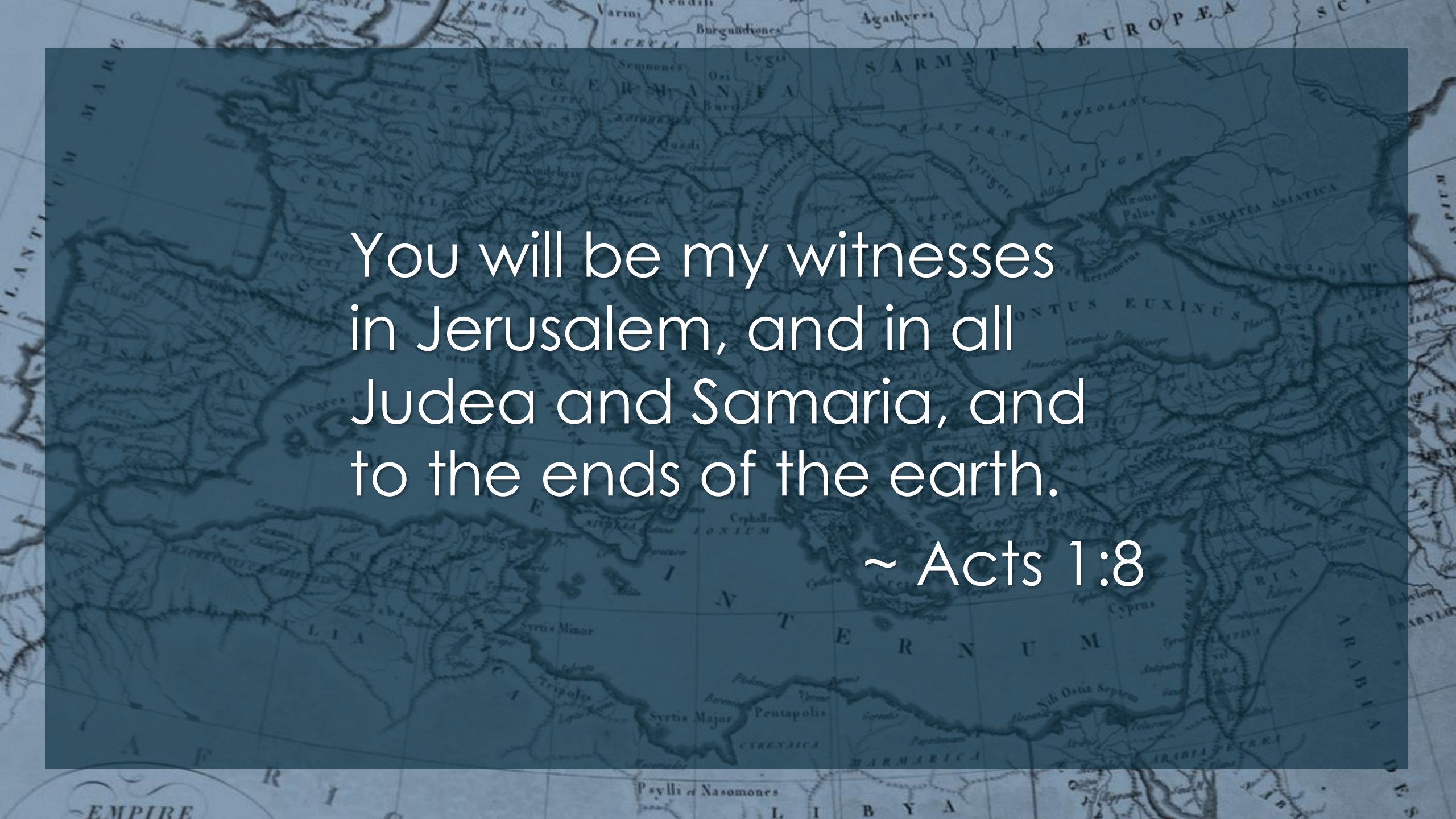
PART FOUR

Our Witness and Adaptive Change



PART ONE
OUR WITNESS IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

ONE


You will be my witnesses
in Jerusalem, and in all
Judea and Samaria, and
to the ends of the earth.
~ Acts 1:8



BRITTLE

Many things look strong, but are vulnerable to sudden collapse



ANXIOUS

Many people are experiencing a sense of helplessness—especially young people



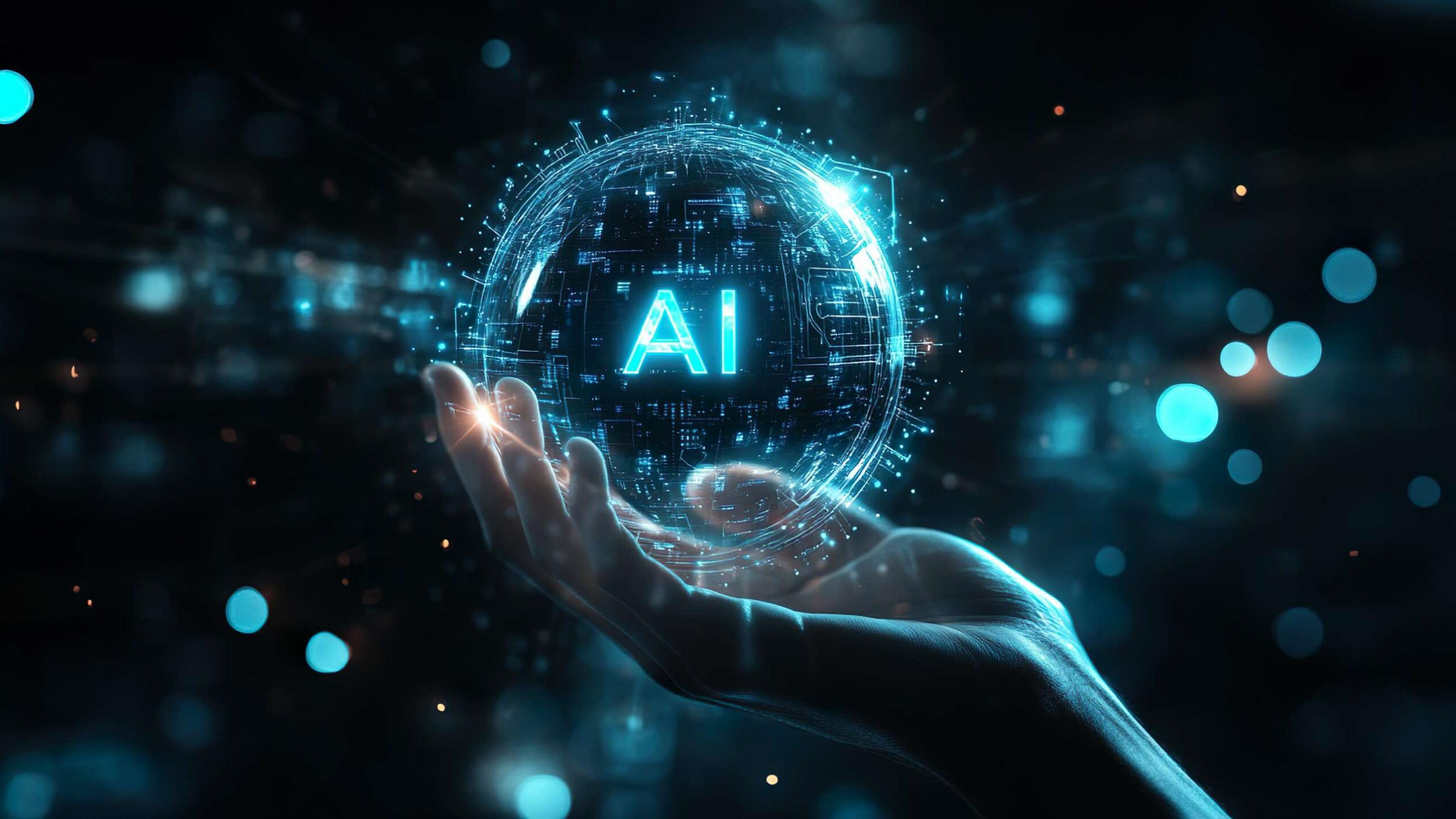
NON-LINEAR

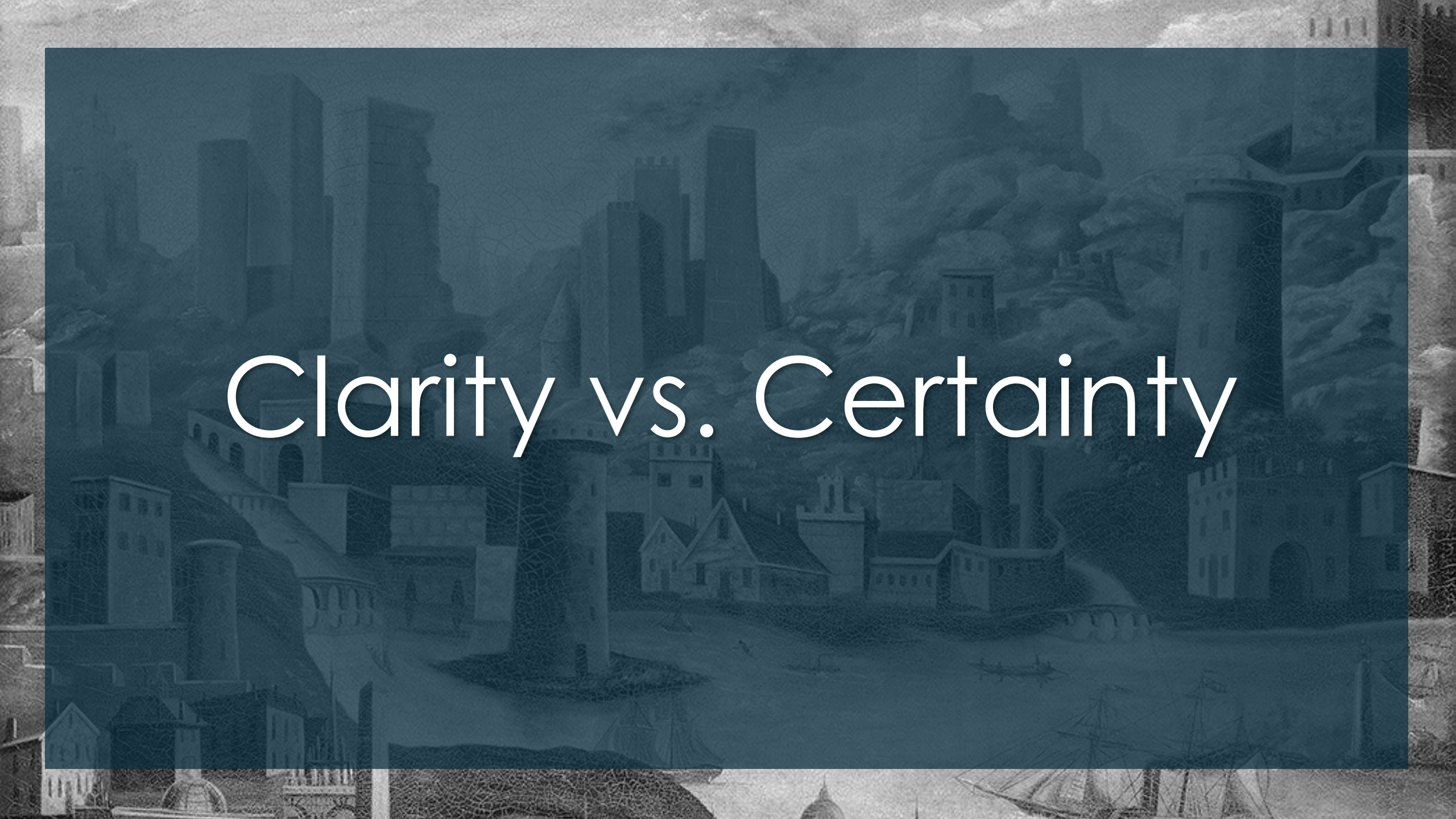
Things don't happen as we expect, based on past experience

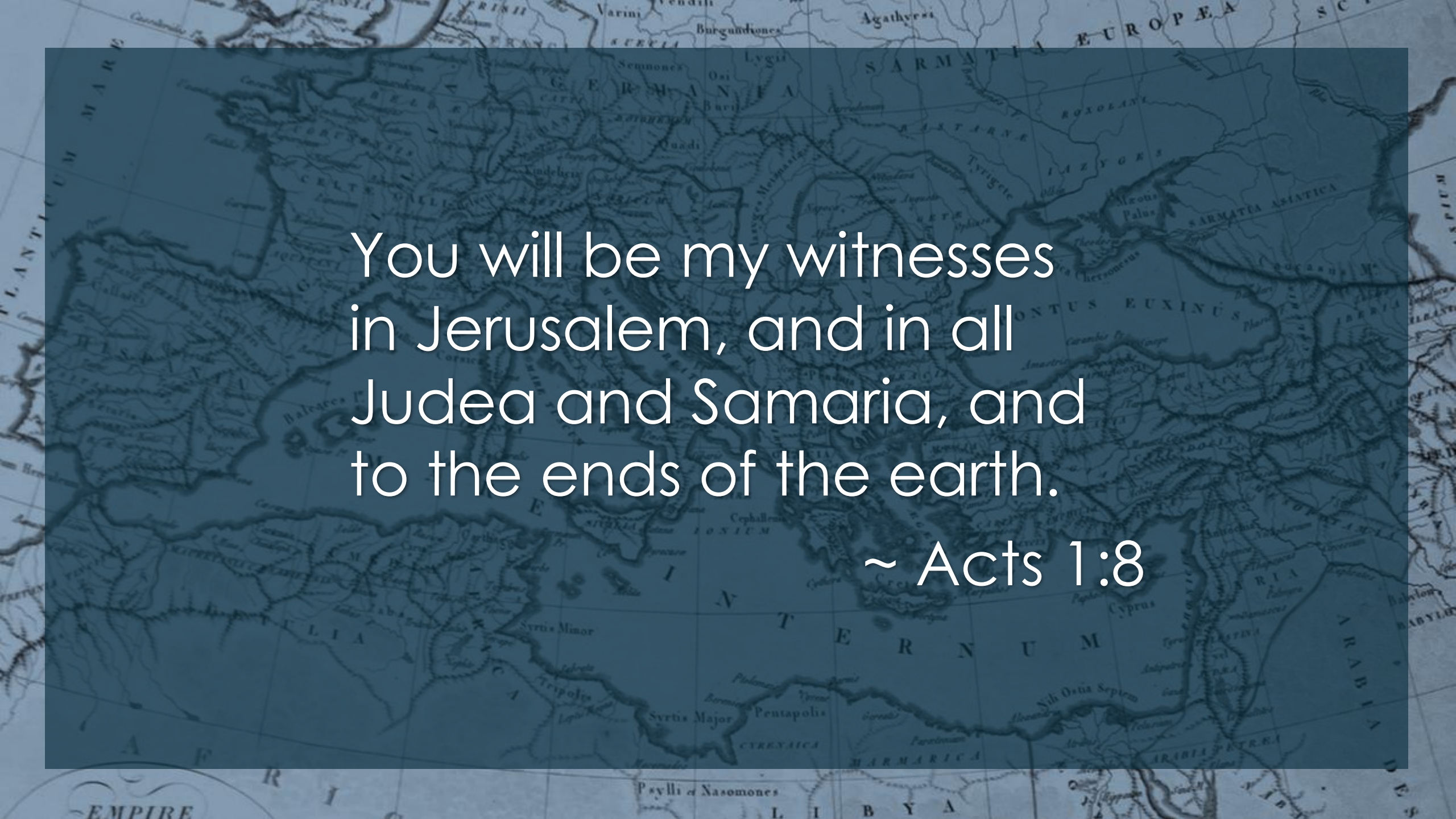


INCOMPREHENSIBLE

Many things just don't make sense.


AI


Clarity vs. Certainty


You will be my witnesses
in Jerusalem, and in all
Judea and Samaria, and
to the ends of the earth.
~ Acts 1:8



PART TWO
OUR WITNESS IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

ONE

VISION

We aspire to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ,
partnering together to foster oneness and mutual flourishing.

MISSION

We exist to equip and empower our communities
to share the healing and reconciling love of Jesus with the world.



FORMING DISCIPLES



DEVELOPING LEADERS

EMBRACING DIFFERENCES



TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES



CONGREGATIONS

54 % experienced growth

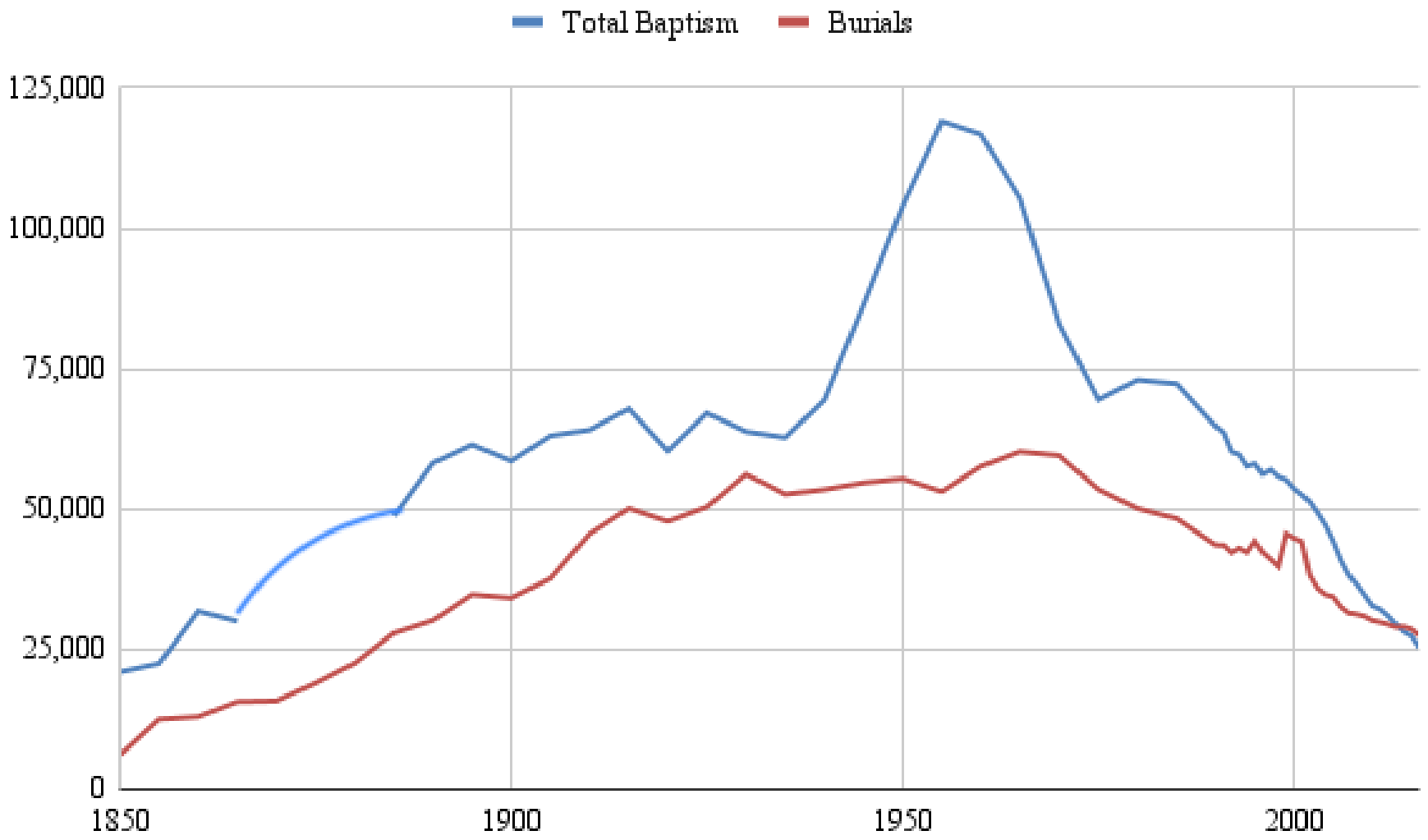
236 baptisms

381 funerals

CONGREGATIONS

NE

Sacramental Trends



2025

19k Baptisms

23k Funerals

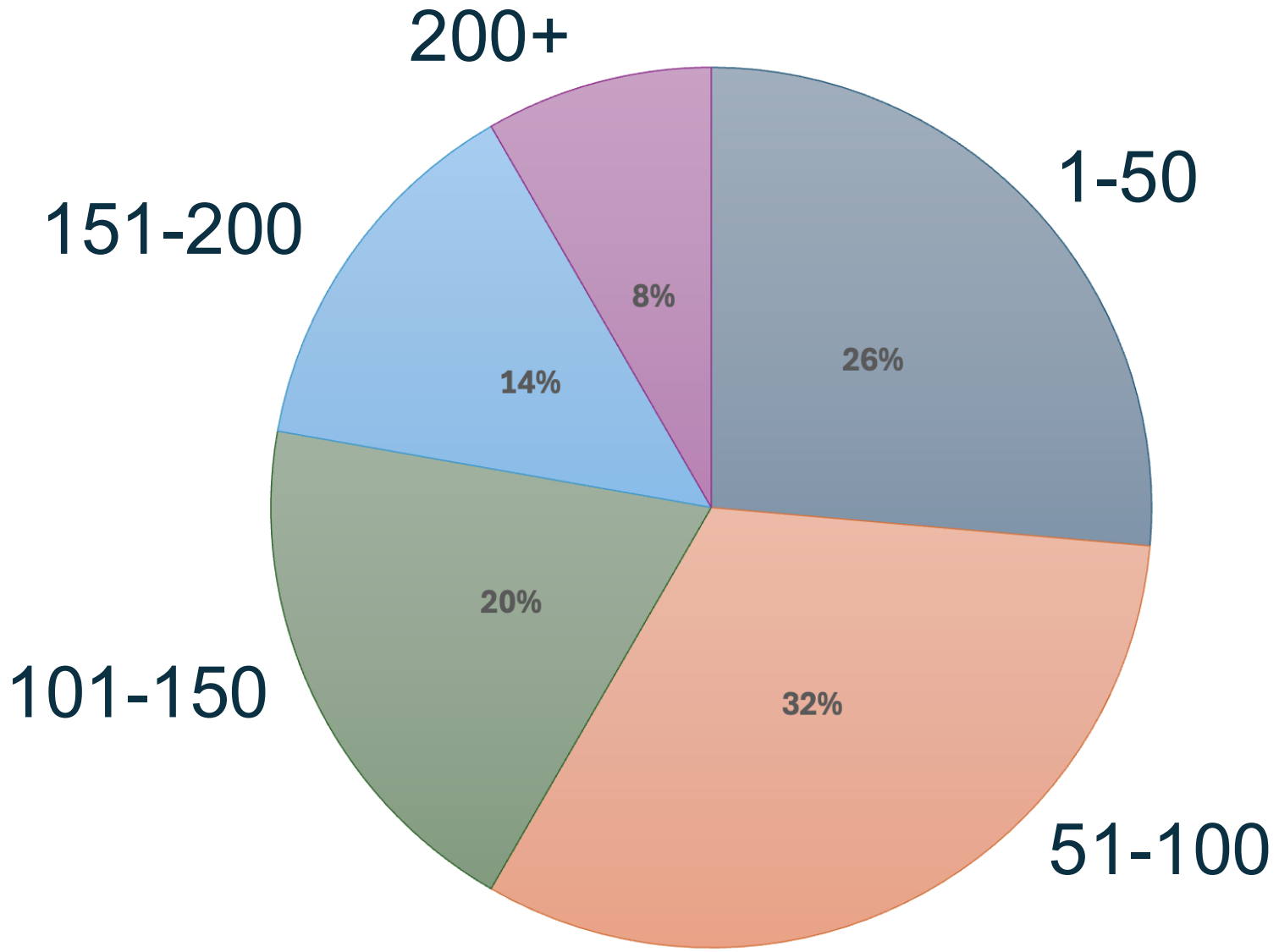
SWFL

236 Baptisms

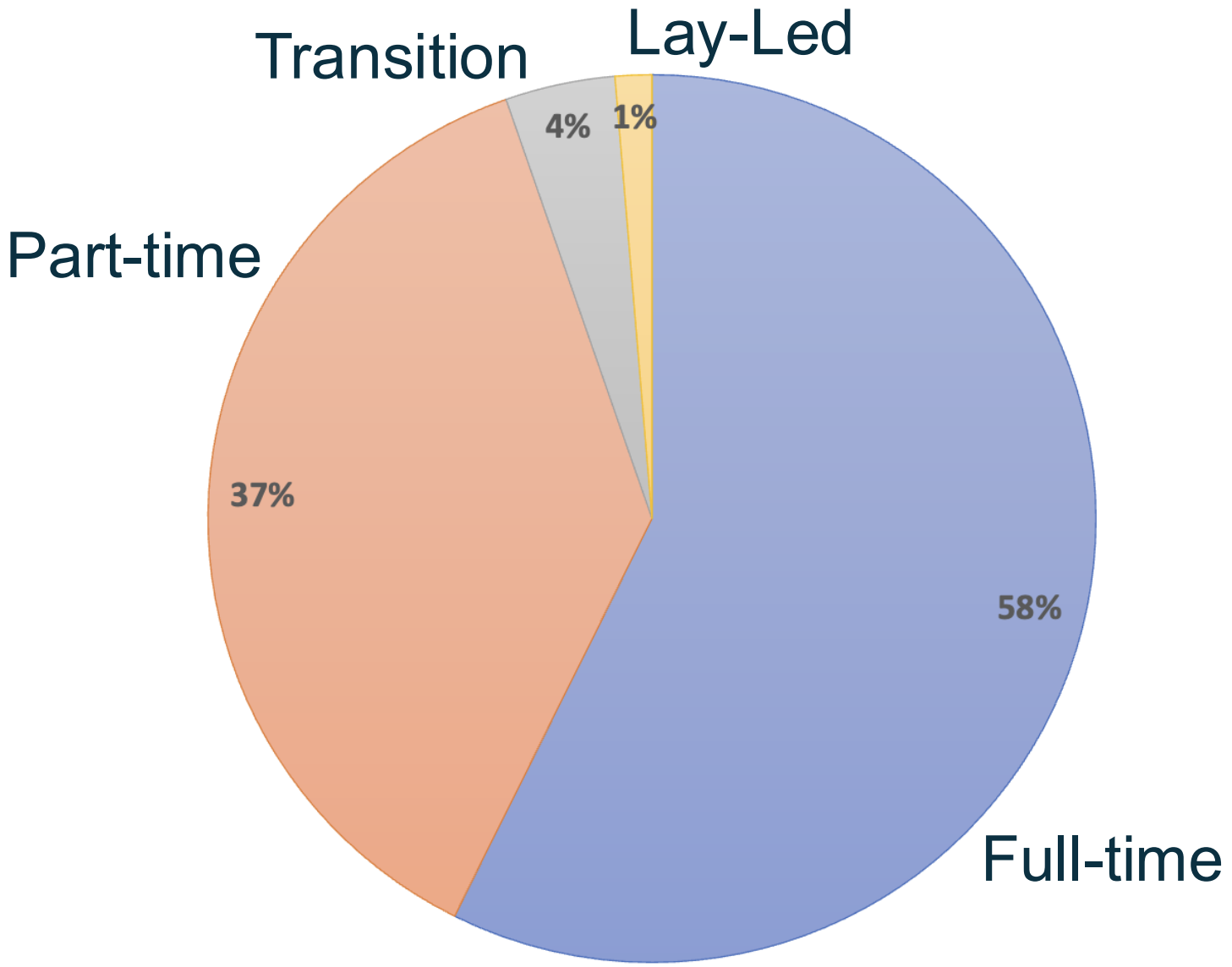
381 Funerals

AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

ONE



LEADERSHIP ONE





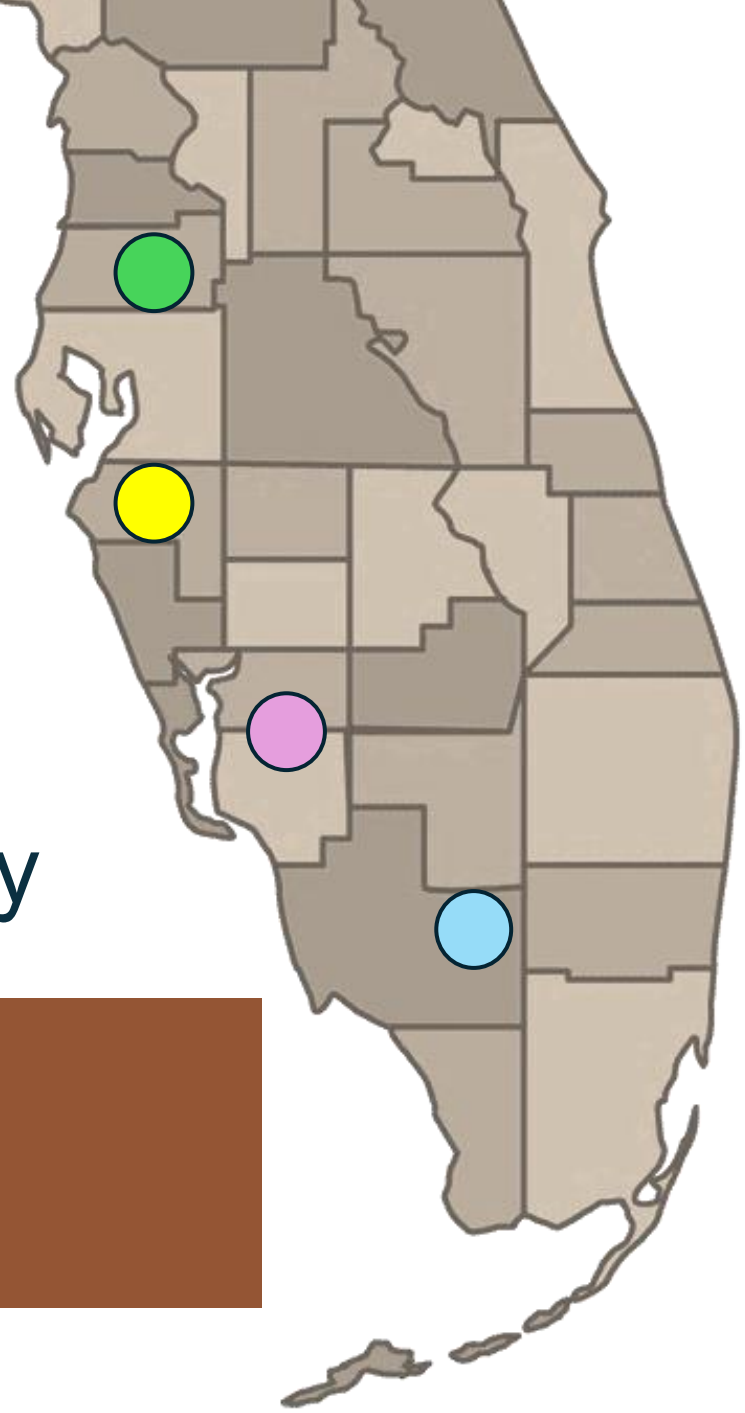
CHURCH PLANTING

St. Paul's, Wesley Chapel

Church of the Apostles, Parrish

Babcock Ranch

East Collier County



CHURCH PLANTING

Fr. William Pardy

Missioner for Church Planting and New Initiatives





Fr. Michael Hurst

Chair, Church Planting Vision Team

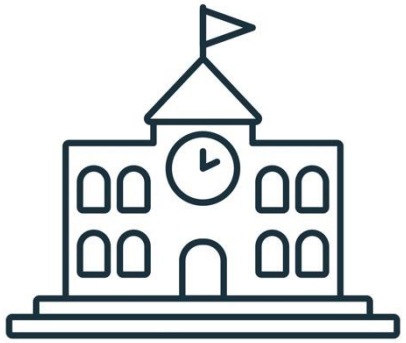
PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

EPISCOPAL SCHOOLS



EPISCOPAL SCHOOLS

ONE



11

SCHOOLS



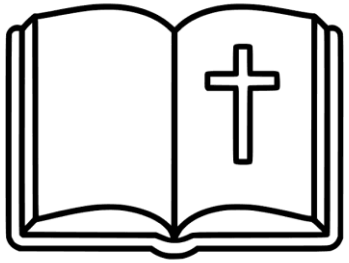
4,456

STUDENTS



814

FACULTY & STAFF



6

CHAPLAINS

EPISCOPAL IDENTITY

FOUR PILLARS

- School Worship
- Community Life
- Religious Formation & Study
- Social Responsibility



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS


SOUTH FLORIDA
BULLS STADIUM
TAMPA GENERAL CENTER FOR ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE
GIVE IT YOUR ALL
FOR THE BAY

MISSIONER FOR YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Morgan Brownlee

DIRECTOR OF CAMP AND OUTDOORS

Caitlin Martin

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Fr. Bill Pardy

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS ONE

Youth Council

- Leadership Development
- Oversee Current Retreats
- Develop Regional Opportunities

Youth and Young Adult Commission

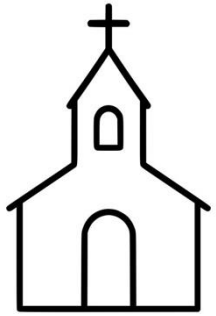
- Council of Advice
- Support Youth Workers
- Develop Opportunities for Training and Collaboration



HISPANIC / LATINO COMMISSION

HISPANIC / LATINO MINISTRIES

7 CLERGY

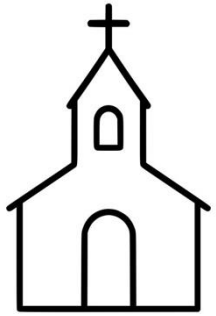


7 CONGREGATIONS

- Aqua y Palabra – Annual Discipleship Conference
- New Latino Commission launched in 2026
- 4 candidates for priesthood in 2027
- Planning for expanded allocation of resources

HISPANIC / LATINO MINISTRIES

7 CLERGY



7 CONGREGATIONS

- **The Rt. Rev. Griselda Delgado del Carpio**, *Assisting Bishop*
- **The Rev. Alex Andujar**, *Coordinator for Latino Ministries*
- **Ofelia Motta Montoya**, *Chair of Latino Commission*

COMMUNITY IMPACT

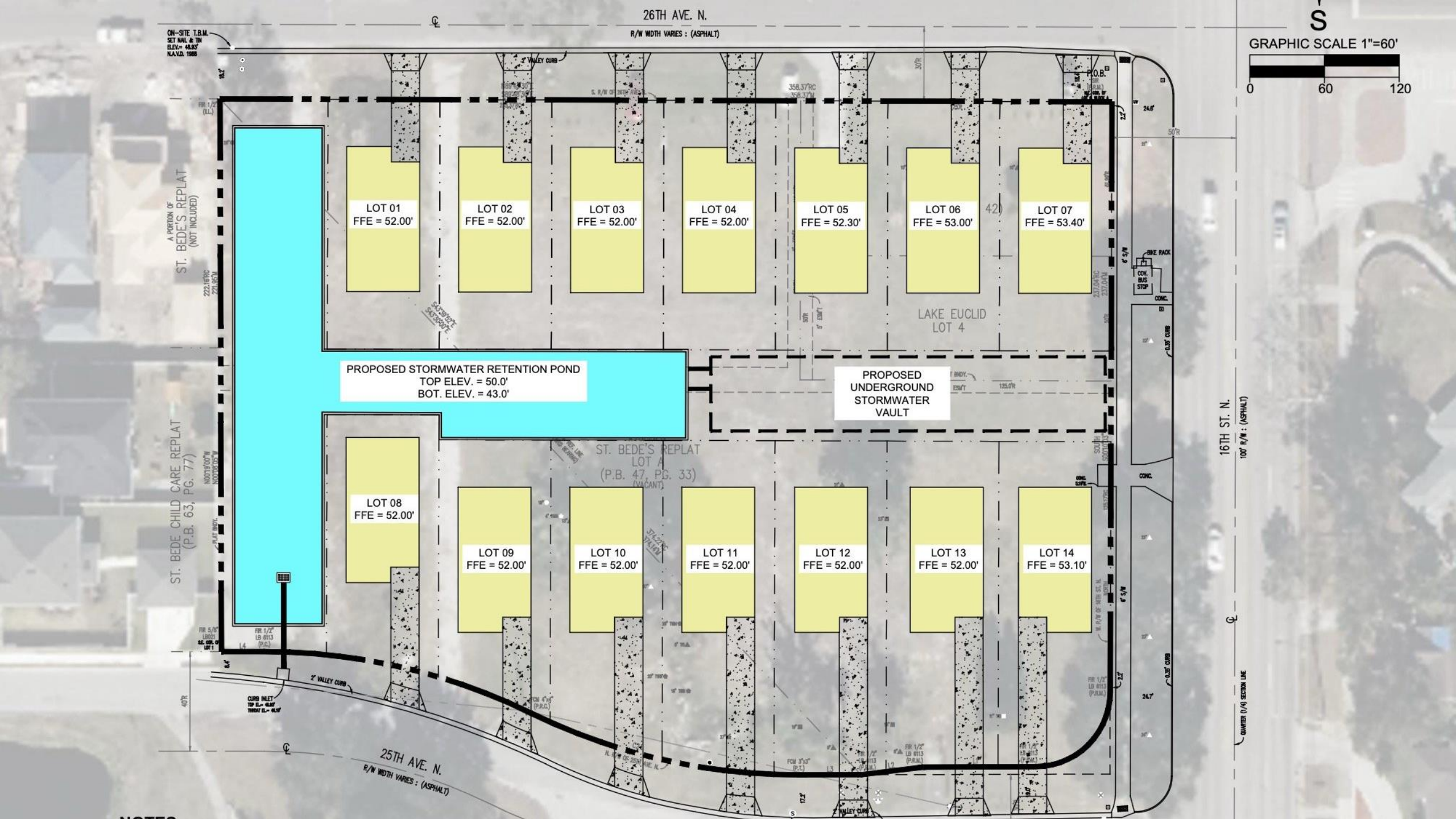


Habitat for Humanity plans 14 affordable homes on former St. Pete church site

August 03, 2026



14 AFFORDABLE HOMES WILL BE CONSTRUCTED BY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ON THE FORMER HOME OF ST. BEDE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ST. PETERSBURG | GOOGLE MAPS

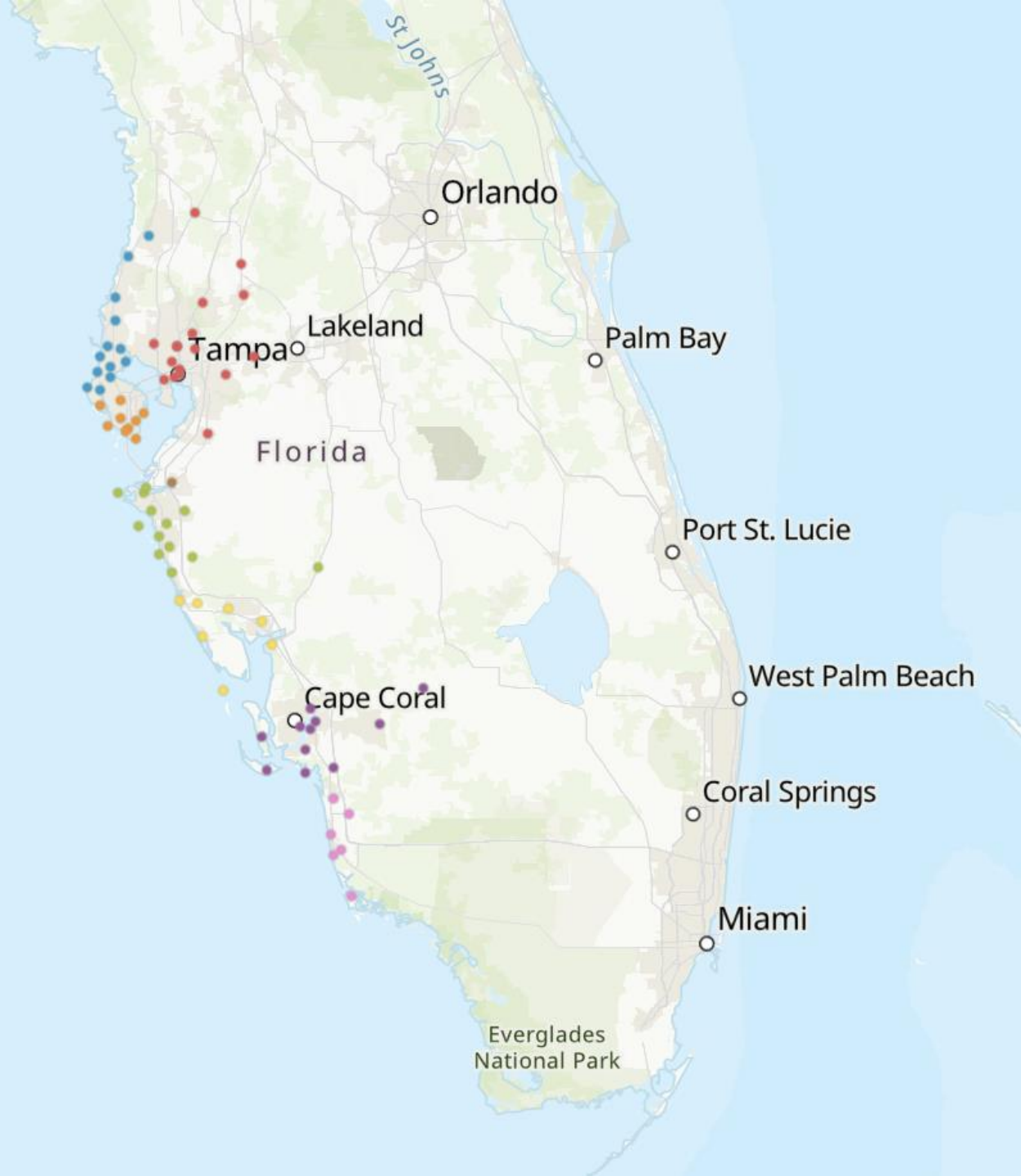

26TH AVE. N.
R/W WIDTH VARIES : (ASPHALT)
ON-SITE T.B.M.
SET NAIL & TIN
ELEV.= 48.83'
N.A.V.D. 1988
GRAPHIC SCALE 1"=60'
0
60
120
LOT 01
FFE = 52.00'
LOT 02
FFE = 52.00'
LOT 03
FFE = 52.00'
LOT 04
FFE = 52.00'
LOT 05
FFE = 52.30'
LOT 06
FFE = 53.00'
LOT 07
FFE = 53.40'
LOT 08
FFE = 52.00'
LOT 09
FFE = 52.00'
LOT 10
FFE = 52.00'
LOT 11
FFE = 52.00'
LOT 12
FFE = 52.00'
LOT 13
FFE = 52.00'
LOT 14
FFE = 53.10'
PROPOSED STORMWATER RETENTION POND
TOP ELEV. = 50.0'
BOT. ELEV. = 43.0'
PROPOSED
UNDERGROUND
STORMWATER
VAULT
LAKE EUCLID
LOT 4
ST. BEDE'S REPLAT
LOT A
(P.B. 47, PG. 33)
(VACANT)
A PORTION OF
ST. BEDE'S REPLAT
(NOT INCLUDED)
ST. BEDE CHILD CARE REPLAT
(P.B. 63, PG. 77)
16TH ST. N.
100' R/W : (ASPHALT)
25TH AVE. N.
R/W WIDTH VARIES : (ASPHALT)
2' VALLEY CURB
CURB INLET
BIKE RACK
COV. BUS STOP
CONC.
0.35' CURB
QUARTER (1/4) SECTION LINE
P.O.B.
50'R
40'R


E Columbus
N Central
St. James House of Prayer
"The Episcopal Church Welcomes You"


SAGE PARTNERS
ALFONSO
ARCHITECTS

COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

ONE



An AI Assisted Analysis of Current Trends and Future Prospects



ONE

SUMMARY ONE

Drawing together the diocesan narratives from 2020-2025 and the quantitative parish data, a clear picture emerges of a diocese that has demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and strong local engagement while navigating major demographic, financial, environmental, and cultural transitions.

The Diocese's story is not primarily one of decline, but of adaptation to a changing Florida context. It is finding new ways to be church while confronting significant long-term challenges.

STRONGEST CHARACTERISTICS

- High congregational adaptability and innovation.
- Strong lay leadership and volunteer engagement.
- Deep commitment to outreach and community service.
- Increasing sophistication in digital ministry.
- Significant financial capacity in several larger congregations.
- Strong recovery and response capability following hurricanes and other crises.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES

- Aging membership across much of the diocese.
- Difficulty attracting younger adults, children, and families.
- Dependence upon relatively small groups of active volunteers.
- Rising property, insurance, and maintenance costs.
- Uneven recovery in in-person participation following COVID.
- Repeated disruption from hurricanes & climate-related events.

MOST PROMISING INDICATORS

Key Indicators of Congregational Sustainability

- Strong worship
- Visible outreach
- Digital accessibility
- Intentional welcome
- Intergenerational ministry

TABLE DISCUSSION

- Reflect for a moment on the BANI framework, which describes our present and future world as BRITTLE, ANXIOUS, NON-LINEAR, AND INCOMPREHENSIBLE. How have you experienced this reality in your context?

- What opportunities to you see in your congregation for innovation and building resilience? How does this impact your witness in your local community?



PART THREE
OUR WITNESS AT DAYSPRING

ONE



DaySpring

Brad Thompson

Executive Director

DAYSPRING
A SACRED PLACE



Master Plan for

DaySpring

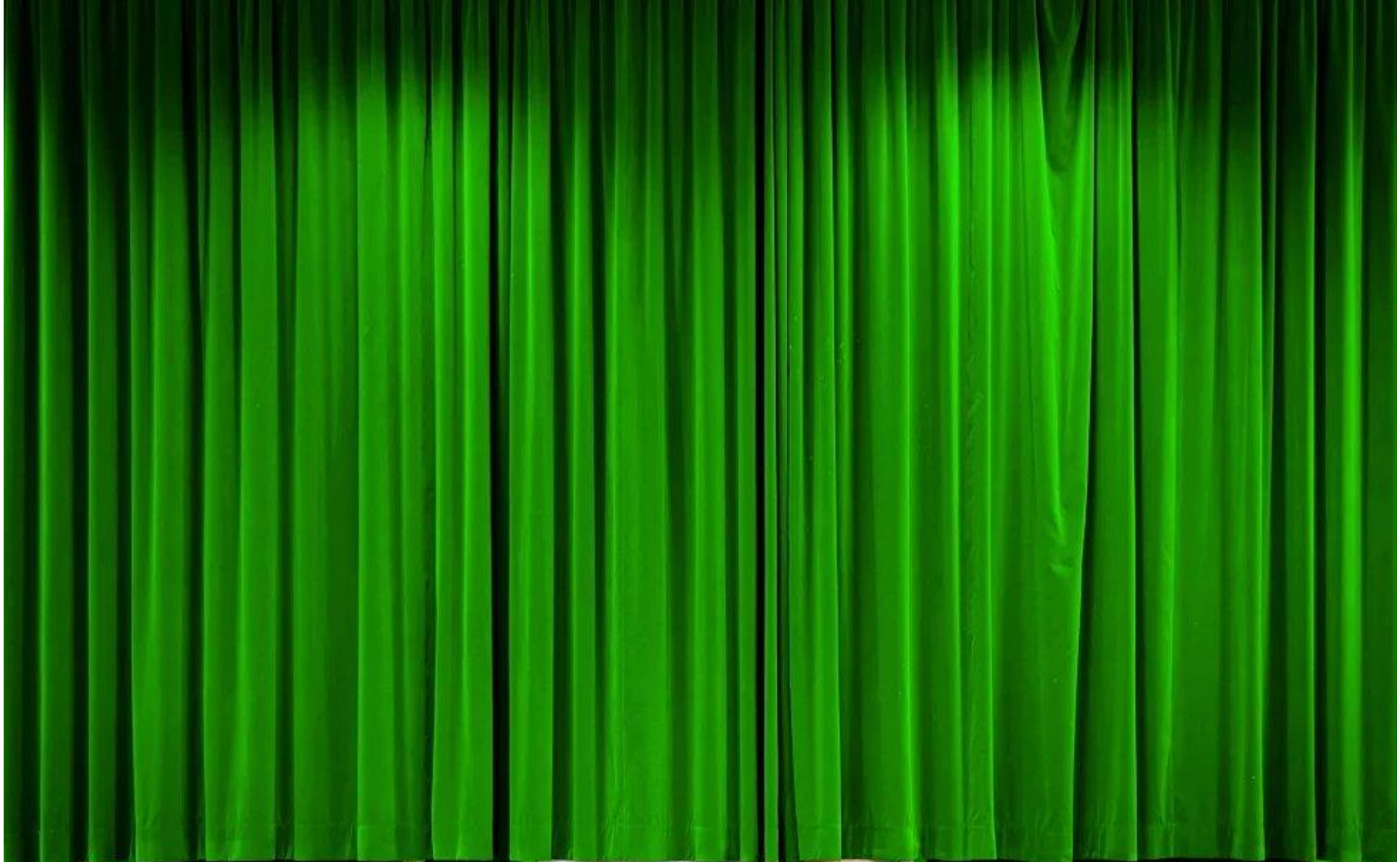
THE BIG REVEAL

Update to 2014 campus master plan

Considers modern Episcopal needs (in-reach, 15%)
and the groups we serve (outreach, 85%)

Focus:
1. Continuity of service
2. Accessibility
3. Youth
4. Intentional adult lodging
5. Care of natural campus

DAYSPRING
A SACRED PLACE

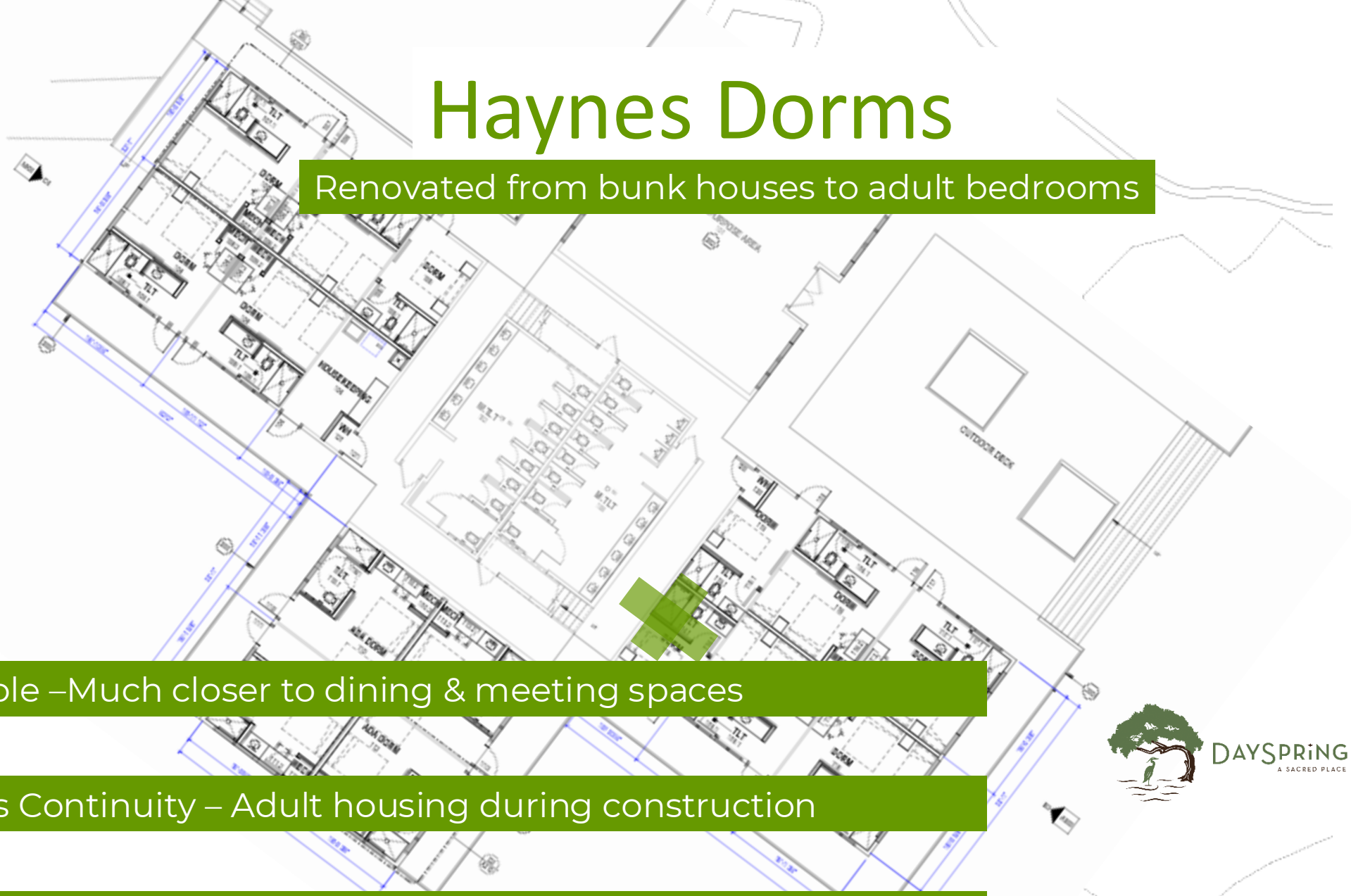





WETLAND
VEHICULAR TRAFFIC
27 PARKING SPACES
27 PARKING SPACES
OLD LABYRINTH
DINING HALL
CHAPEL
NEW LABYRINTH
EXISTING BUILDING
200 SEAT WORSHIP SPACE
POND
EXISTING BUILDING
EXISTING BUILDING
EXISTING BUILDING
DAYSPRING
A SACRED PLACE

Haynes Dorms

Renovated from bunk houses to adult bedrooms



Accessible –Much closer to dining & meeting spaces

Provides Continuity – Adult housing during construction

Stewardship – Costs of renovation & restores underutilized spaces

DAYSPRING
A SACRED PLACE

DAYSPRING
A SACRED PLACE

Haynes Dorms



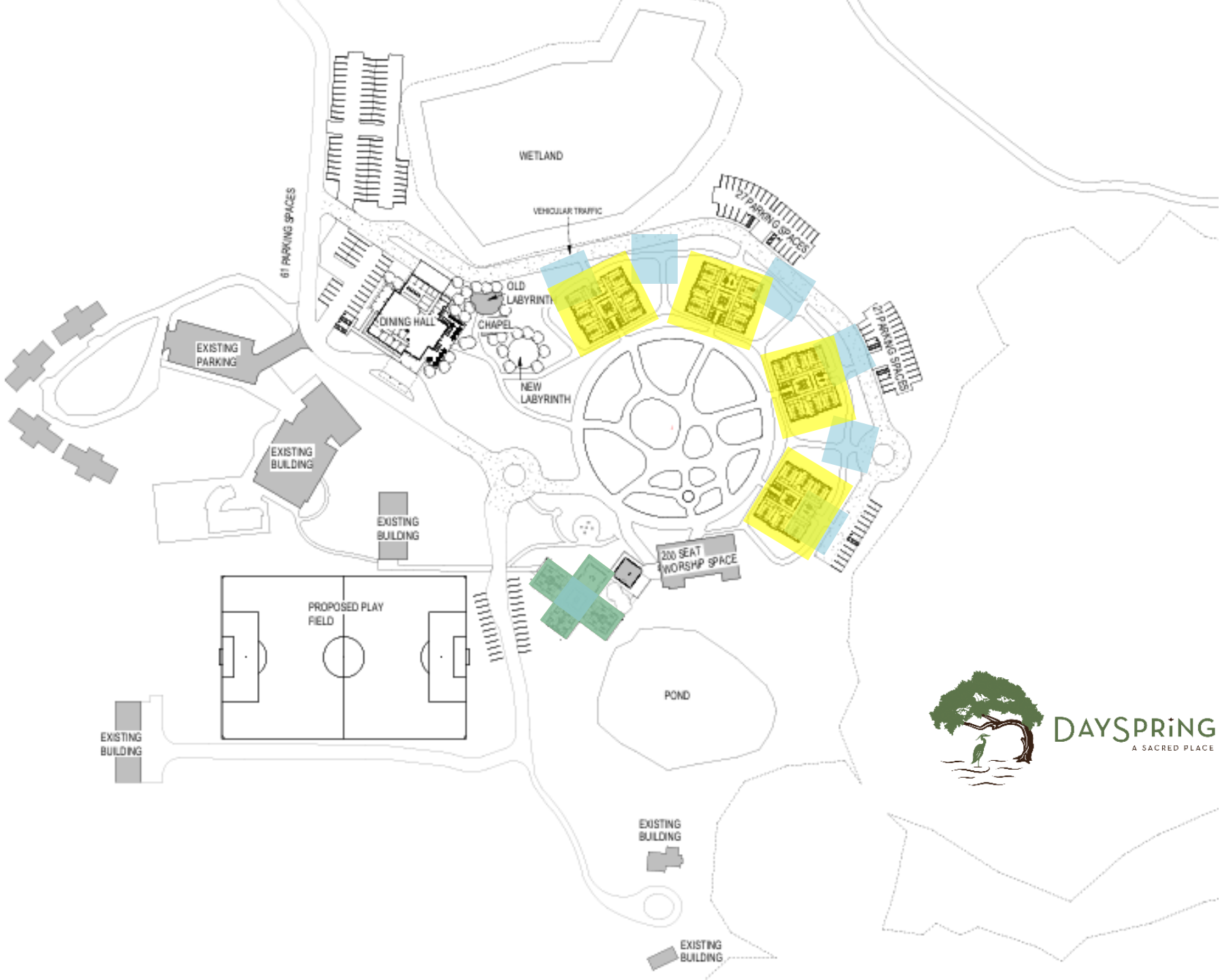




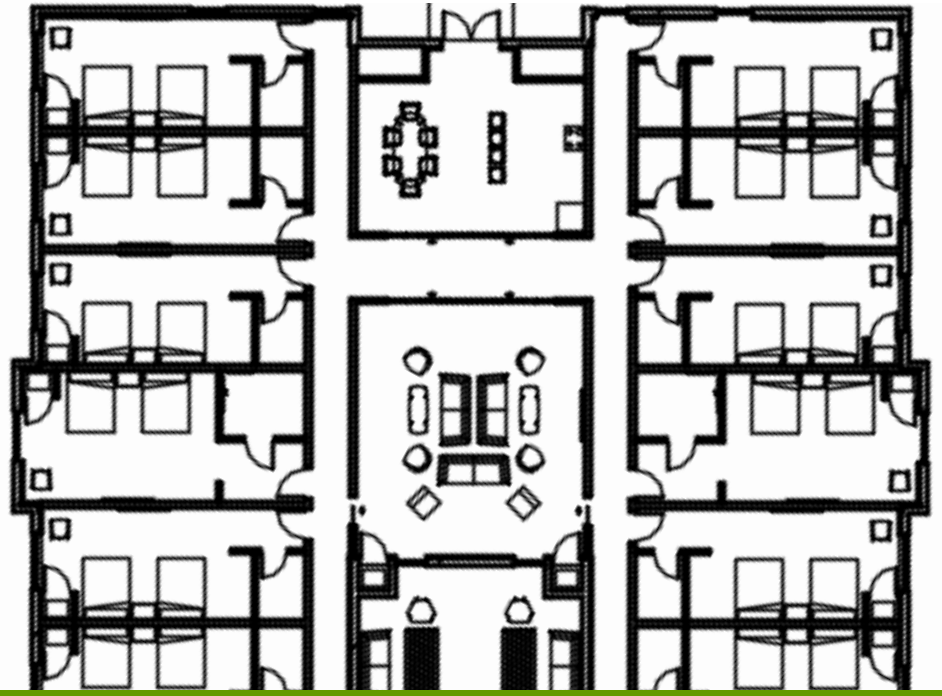
EXISTING BUILDING

EXISTING BUILDING

DAYSPRING
A SACRED PLACE


WETLAND
VEHICULAR TRAFFIC
27 PARKING SPACES
61 PARKING SPACES
OLD LABYRINTH
DINING HALL
CHAPEL
NEW LABYRINTH
EXISTING PARKING
EXISTING BUILDING
EXISTING BUILDING
PROPOSED PLAY FIELD
200 SEAT WORSHIP SPACE
POND
EXISTING BUILDING
EXISTING BUILDING
EXISTING BUILDING
DAYSPRING
A SACRED PLACE

New Guest Cottages



12 Bedroom – Perfect for vestries and groups up to 24

Central lounge – Groups build relationships in informal spaces yet still have privacy from other groups

Stewardship – Built in existing campus footprint

DAYSPRING
A SACRED PLACE


Welcome & Hospitality
WETLAND
VEHICULAR TRAFFIC
27 PARKING SPACES
OLD LABYRINTH
DINING HALL
CHAPEL
NEW LABYRINTH
EXISTING PARKING
EXISTING BUILDING
EXISTING BUILDING
200 SEAT WORSHIP SPACE
PROPOSED PLAY FIELD
POND
EXISTING BUILDING
EXISTING BUILDING
EXISTING BUILDING
DAYSPRING
A SACRED PLACE

Welcome and Dining

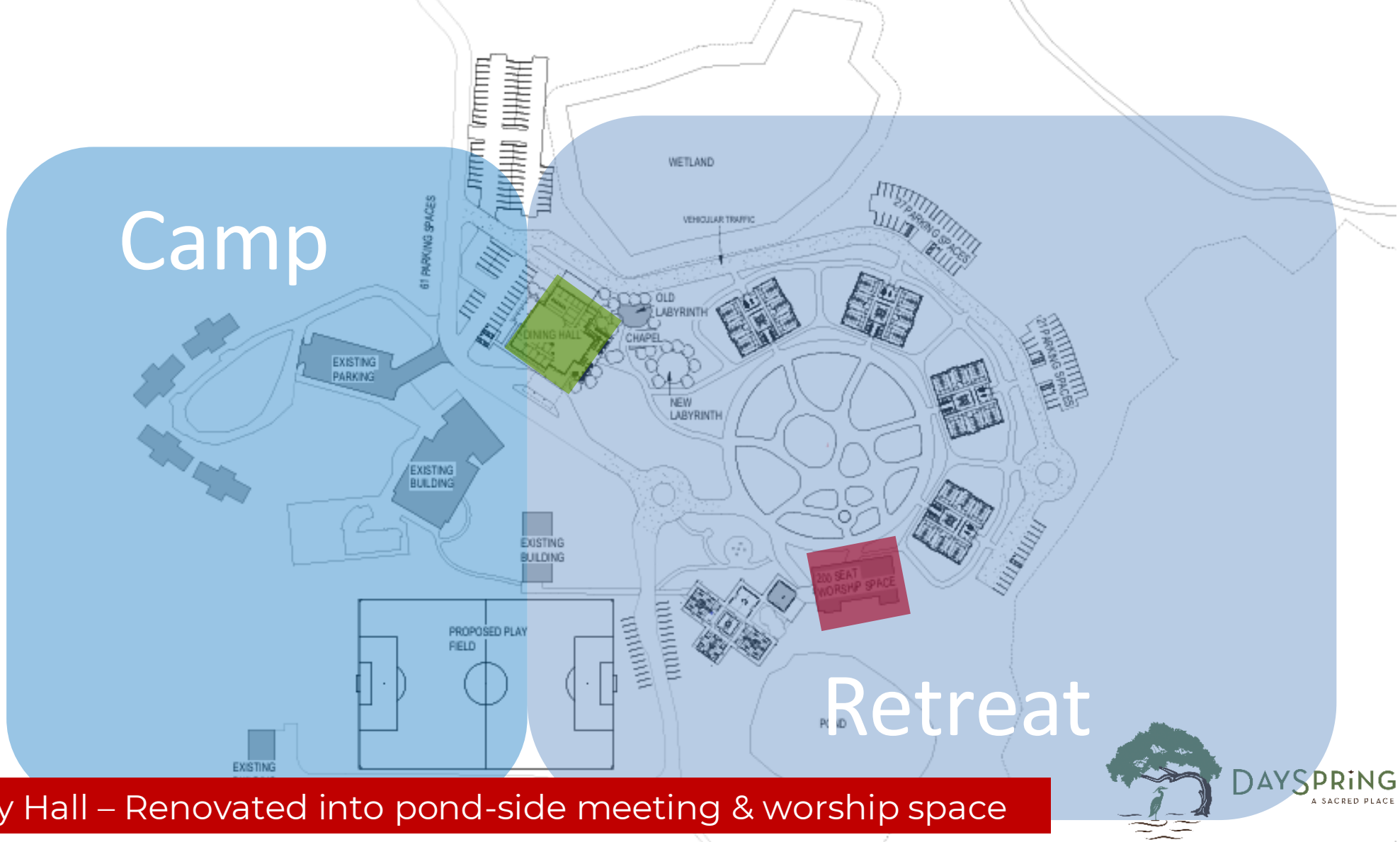


Welcome Center – First building you encounter

Dining Room – Serving contemplative retreat groups and rambunctious camp groups simultaneously

Ideally Located – Easy walking access on one side, dumpster/food trucks on the other, central to adult zone and camp zone

DAYSPRING
A SACRED PLACE

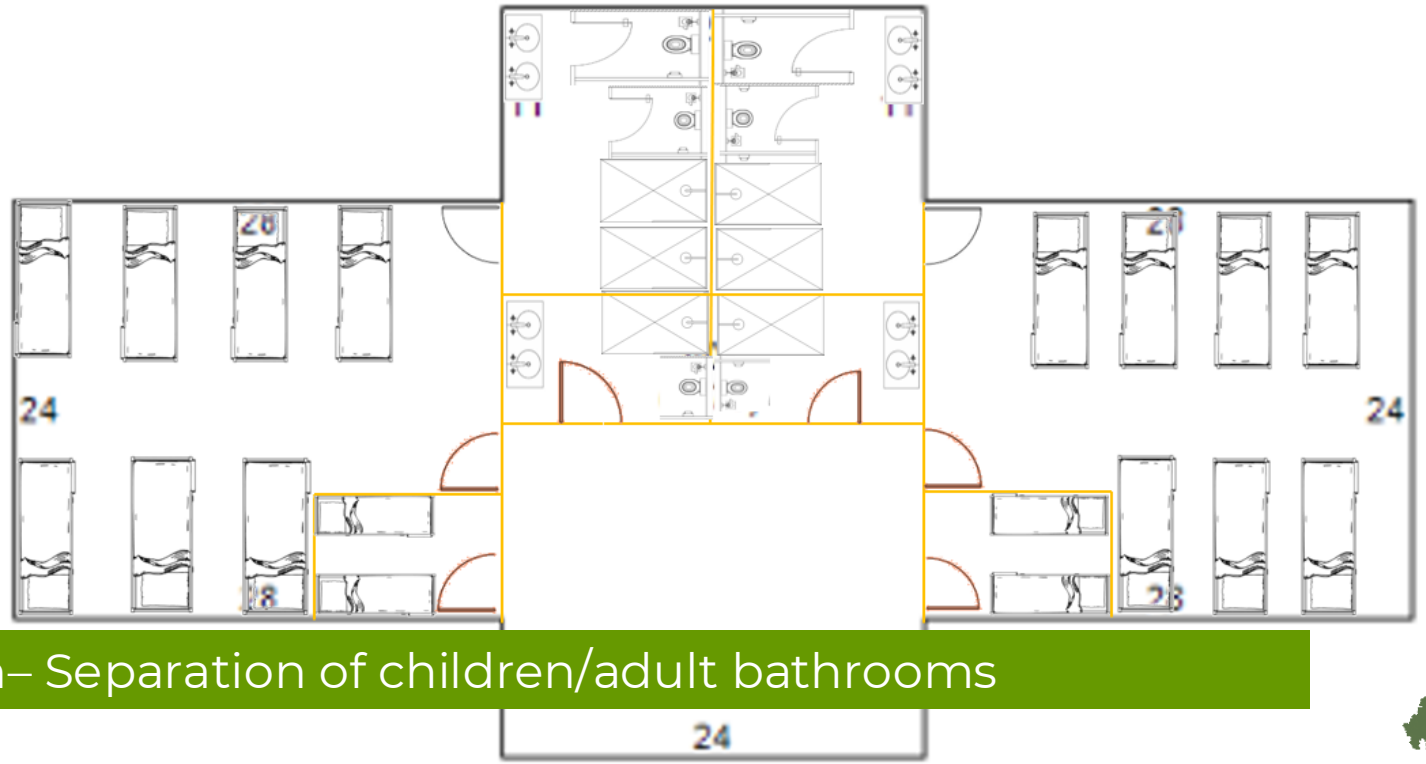


Curry Hall – Renovated into pond-side meeting & worship space

Ideally Located – Easy walking access on one side,
dumpster/food trucks on the other,
central to adult zone and camp zone

DAYSPRING
A SACRED PLACE

Youth Cabins



Safe Church– Separation of children/adult bathrooms

Safety– Design that provides supervision and needed privacy

Stewardship – Care for the spaces where young people grow

DAYSPRING
A SACRED PLACE

EXISTING BUILDING

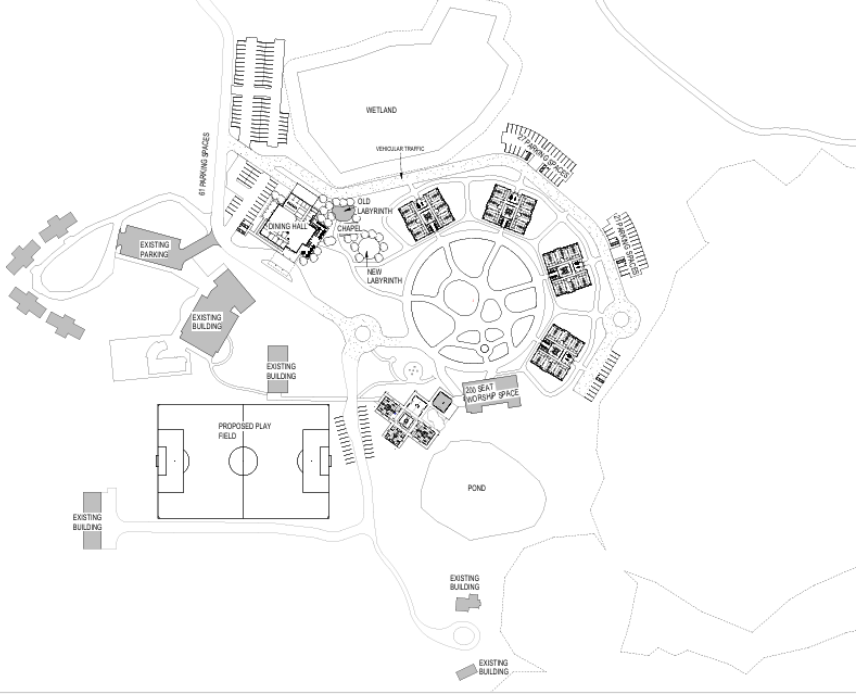
EXISTING BUILDING

Youth Campus Discernment



DAYSPRING
A SACRED PLACE





- 42 Adult Bedrooms
- 200 Bunk Beds
- Central campus is crowded with walking guests and vehicles
- Tired lodging and dining spaces

- 60+ Adult Bedrooms
- 128 Bunk Beds
- Removal of cars from central campus. Inviting natural walks between spaces
- Renewed for 40 more years
- Better organized for camps vs retreats

DAYSPRING
A SACRED PLACE



DaySpring

Grounds for Growth

DAYSPRING
A SACRED PLACE

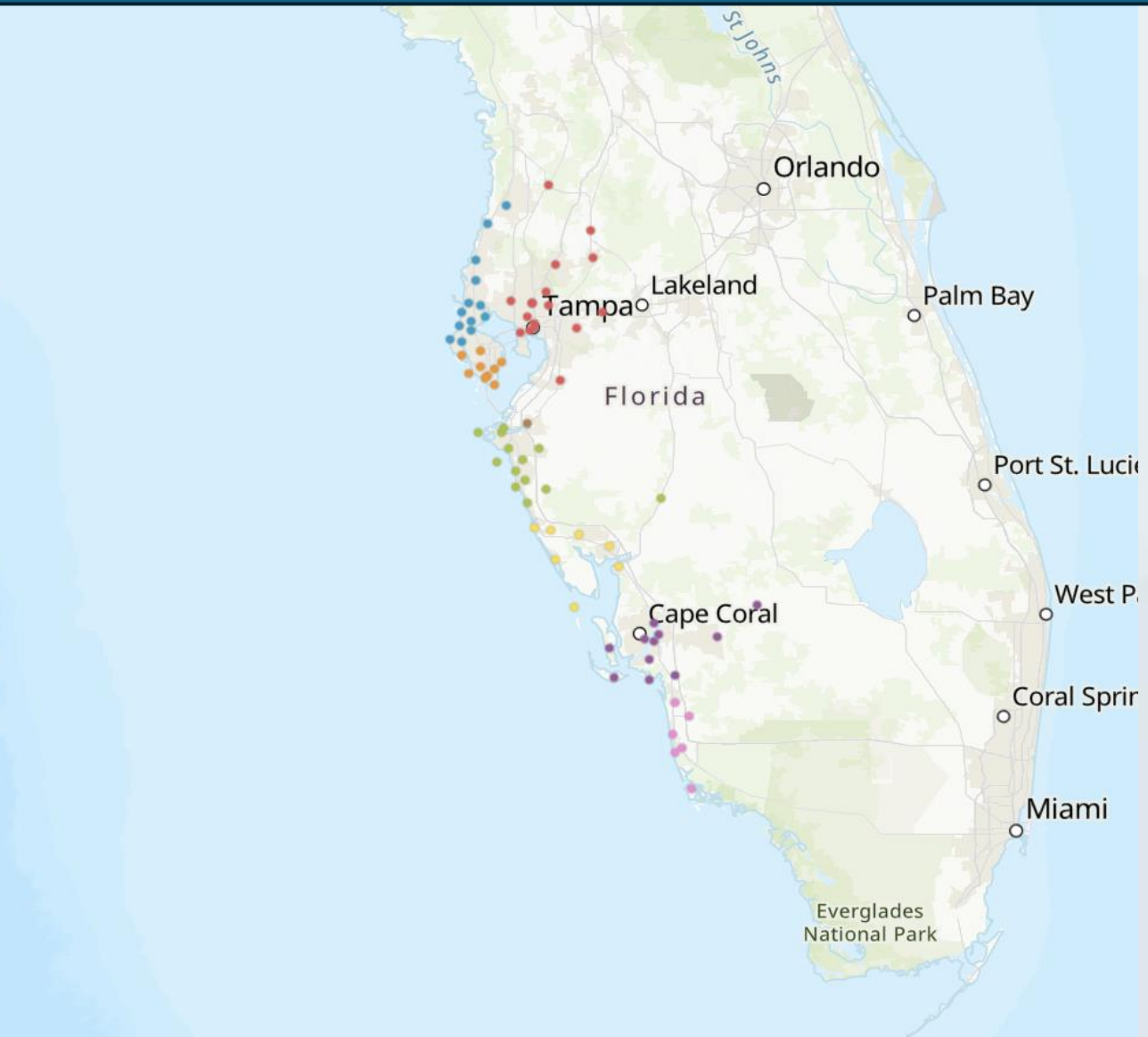


PART FOUR
OUR WITNESS AND ADAPTIVE CHANGE

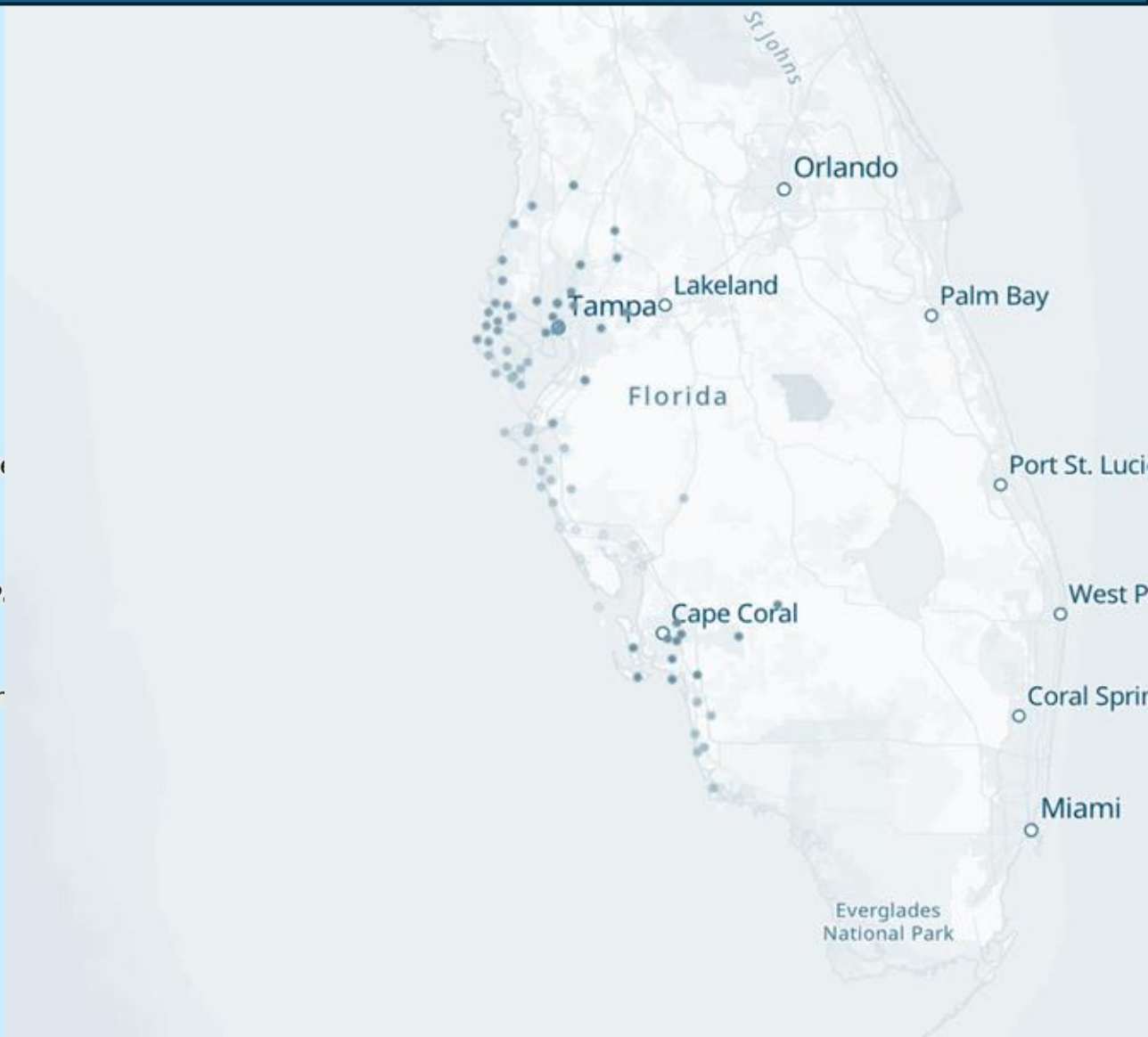
ONE



2026


St Johns
Orlando
Lakeland
Tampa
Palm Bay
Florida
Port St. Luci
West P
Cape Coral
Coral Sprir
Miami
Everglades
National Park

2036


St Johns
Orlando
Lakeland
Tampa
Palm Bay
Florida
Port St. Luci
West P
Cape Coral
Coral Sprir
Miami
Everglades
National Park

POSSIBLE SCENARIOS ONE

Scenario 1:

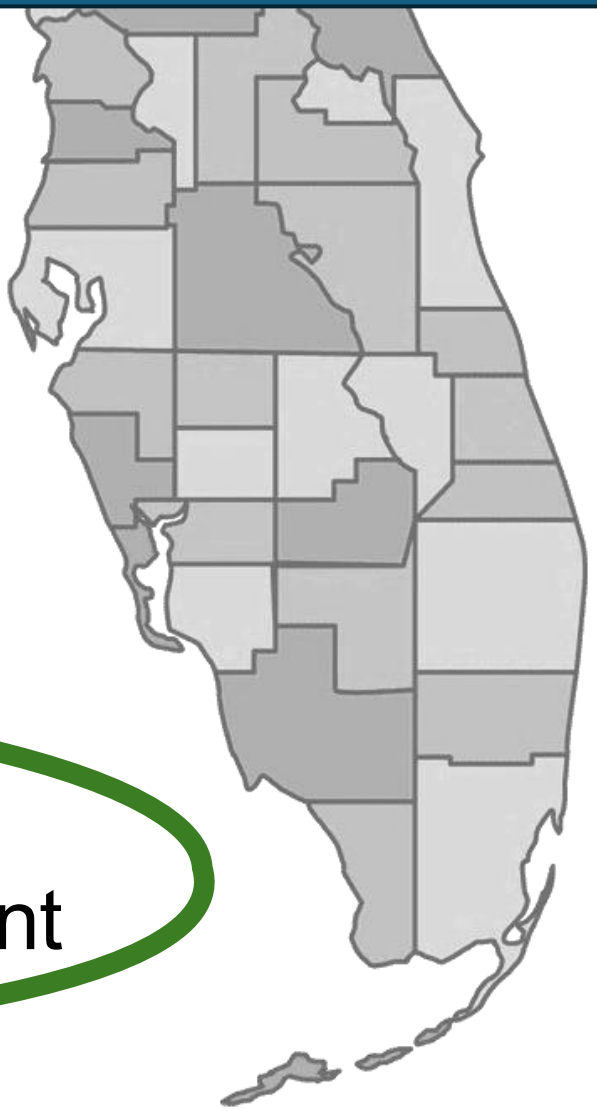
Gradual Aging and Contraction

Scenario 2:

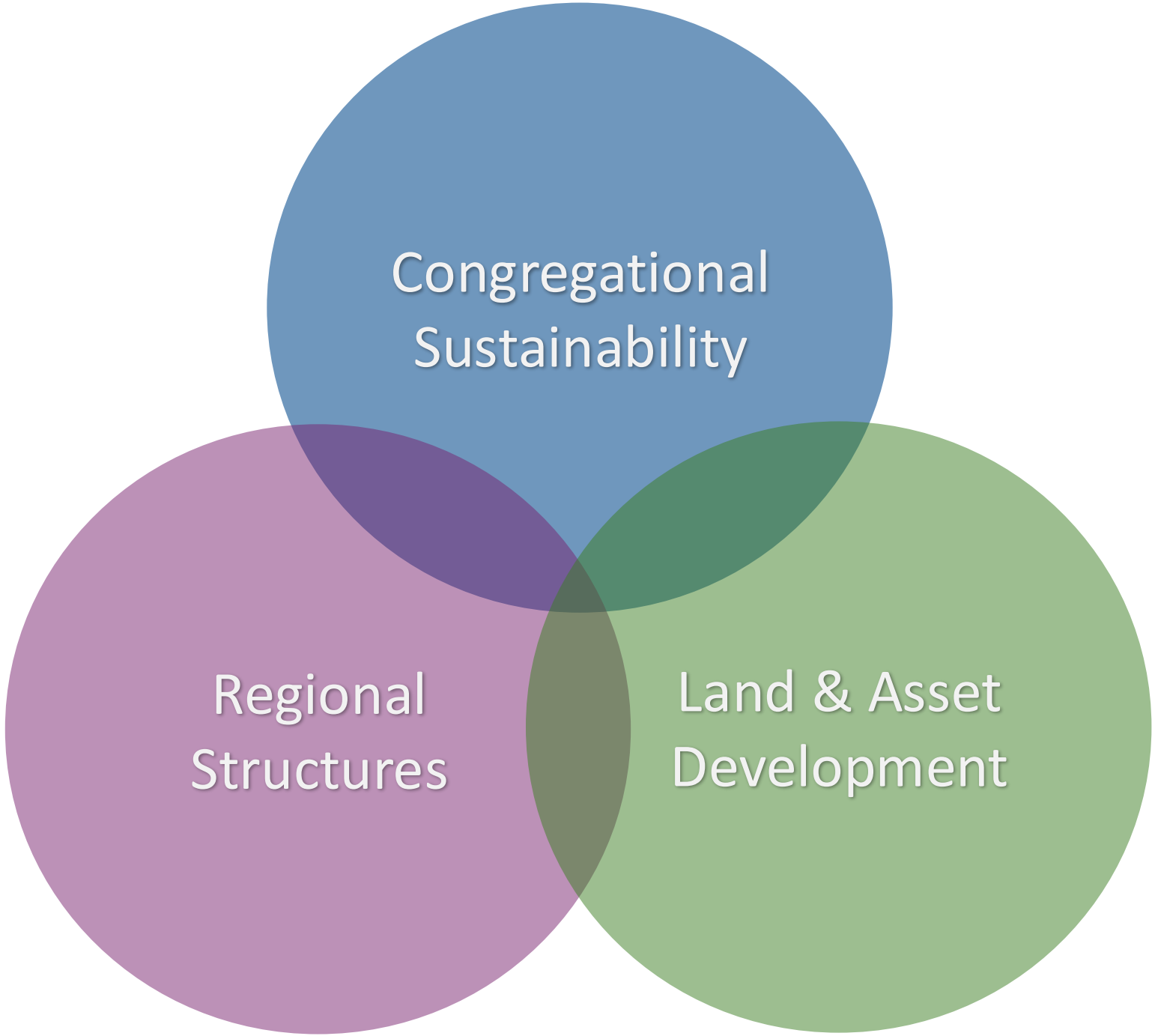
Stable Regional Presence

Scenario 3:

Renewal Through Community Engagement



We are in the process of reimagining and reconstituting what it means to be a diocese.

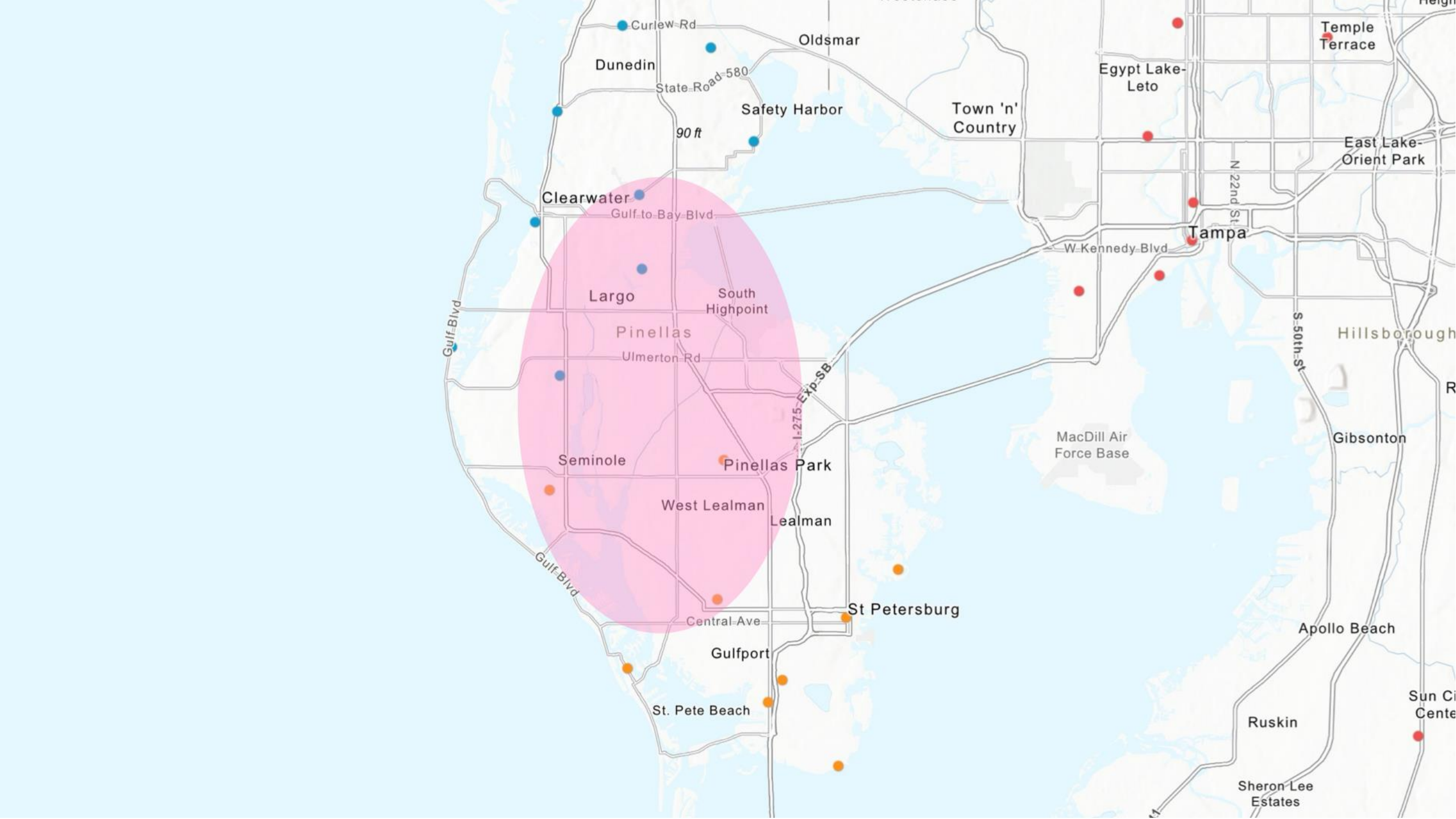

Congregational Sustainability
Regional Structures
Land & Asset Development

A NEW PATH FORWARD

Reactive	→	Proactive
Piecemeal	→	Holistic
Isolation	→	Collaboration



REPLANTING PINELLAS

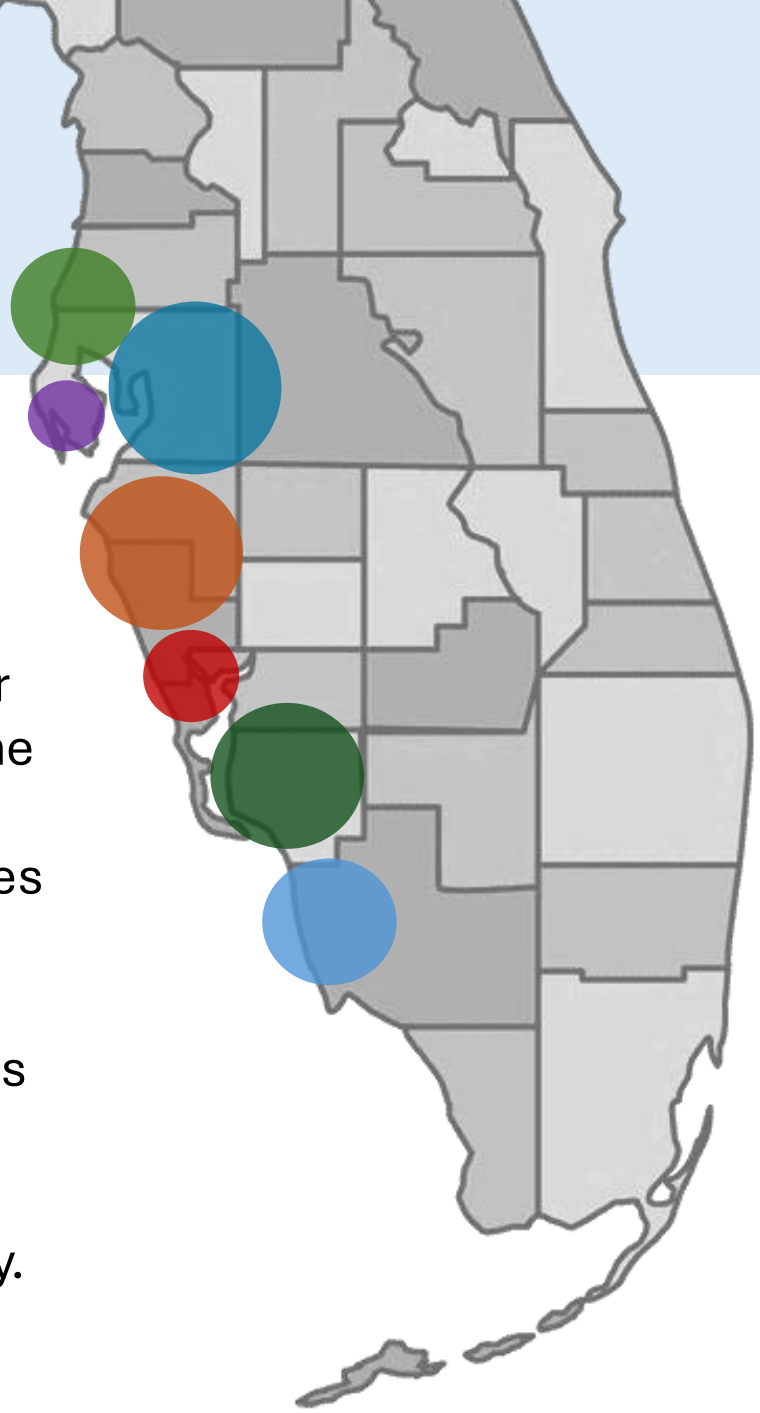

Curlew Rd
Oldsmar
Dunedin
State Road 580
Safety Harbor
90 ft
Clearwater
Gulf to Bay Blvd
Largo
South Highpoint
Pinellas
Ulmerton Rd
Gulf Blvd
I-275 Exp SB
Seminole
Pinellas Park
West Lealman
Lealman
Gulf Blvd
Central Ave
St Petersburg
Gulfport
St. Pete Beach
Town 'n' Country
Egypt Lake-Leto
Temple Terrace
East Lake-Orient Park
N 22nd St
Tampa
W Kennedy Blvd
S 50th St
Hillsborough
MacDill Air Force Base
Gibsonton
Apollo Beach
Ruskin
Sheron Lee Estates



REGIONAL STRUCTURES

CURRENT STRUCTURE

SEVEN DEANERIES

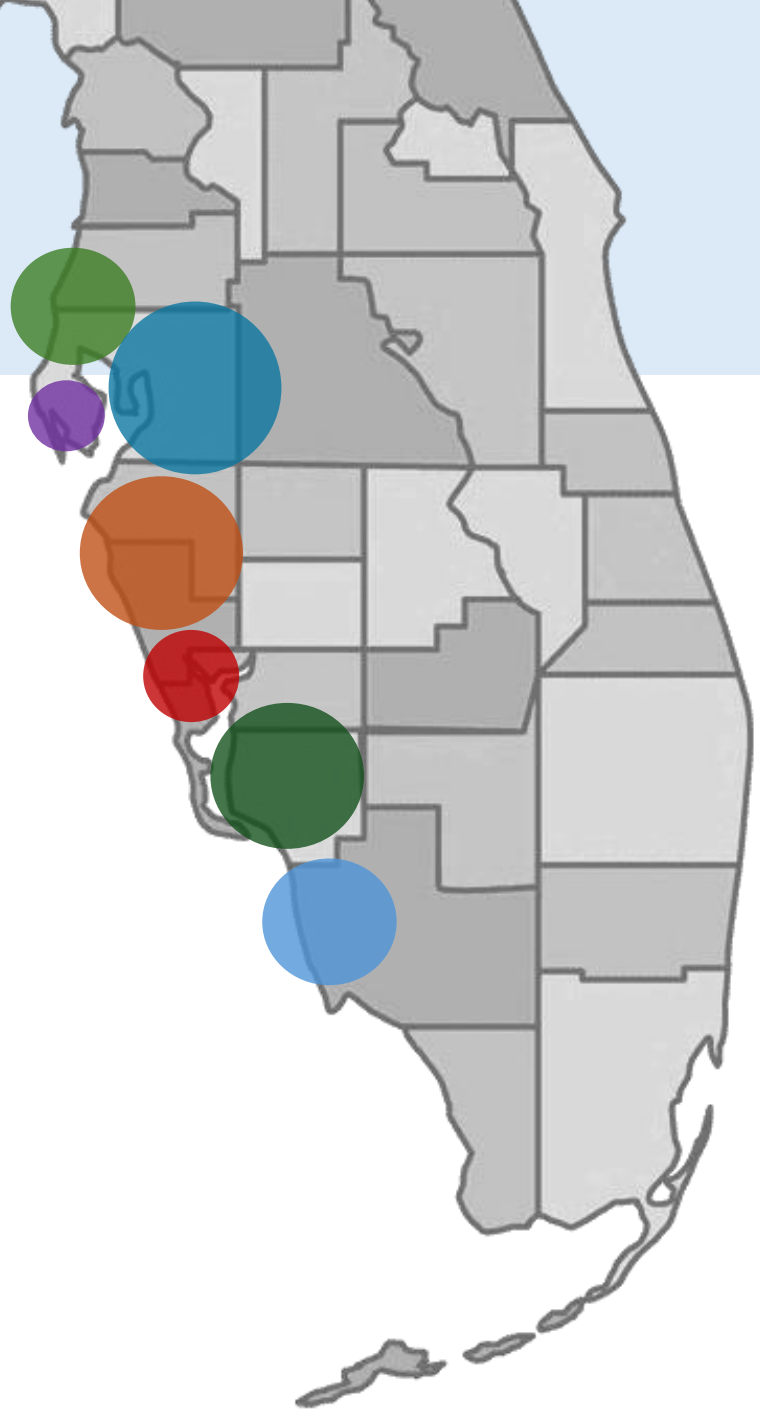


PURPOSE – Canon XI.3

The purpose of each deanery shall be to afford opportunity for the clergy and laity to come together for conferences, to initiate works and activities at the deanery and Congregational levels, to promote the work and Mission of the Church, to identify nominees for the various diocesan offices and positions, to consider resolutions and other matters coming before a meeting of the Convention, to elect persons to serve on Diocesan Council, to elect persons to serve on an episcopal elections committee, and to carry out the work of the Diocese within the deanery.

CURRENT STRUCTURE

SEVEN DEANERIES



Operational

- Appointments and Elections
- Chancellors
- Diocesan-Wide Ministries
- Communication

Formational

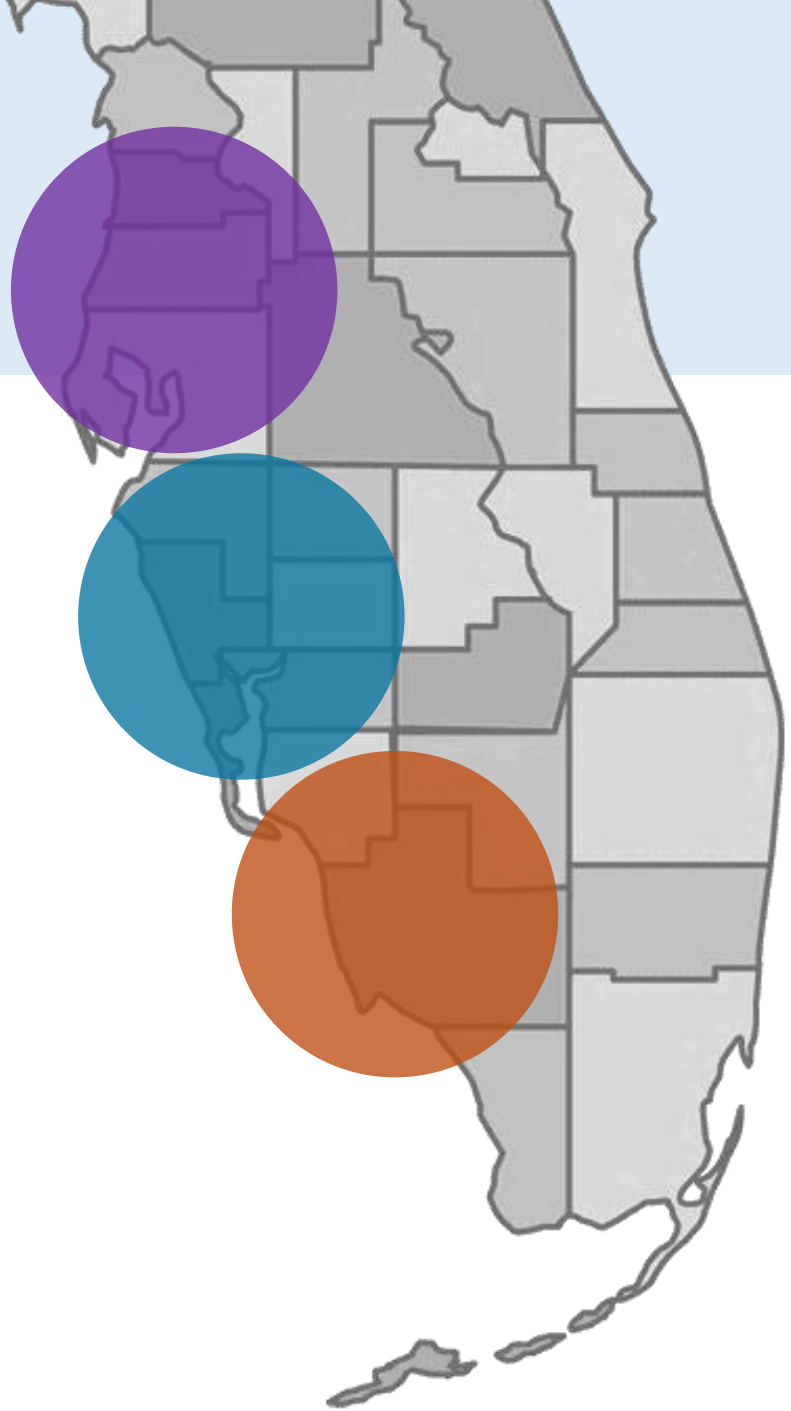
- Inconsistent

Relational

- Clericus

PROPOSED STRUCTURE

THREE REGIONS



Operational

- Appointments and Elections
- Chancellors
- Diocesan-Wide Ministries
- Communication

Formational

- Four Pathways
- Quarterly Gatherings

Relational

- Clergy Small Groups
- Lay Leader Support Networks

Deaneries

1 Dean per Deanery	7
0 Lay Leaders	0

Regions

1 Clergy Convener per Region	3
1 Lay Convener per Region	3

Diocesan Council
Current

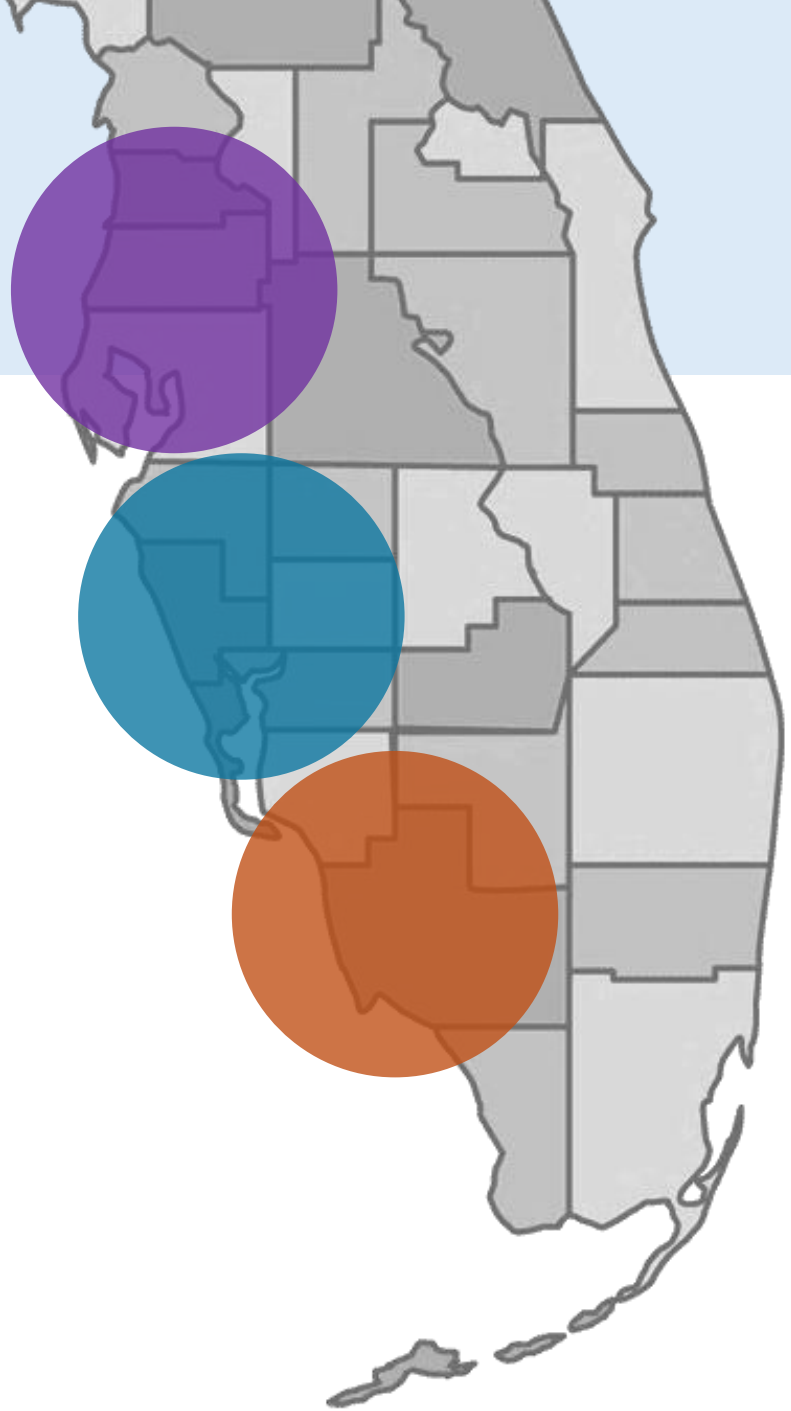
1 Presbyter per Deanery	7
1 Elector per Deanery	7
1 Presbyter At Large	1
2 Electors At Large	2
TOTAL	**17**

Diocesan Council
Proposed

2 Presbyters Per Region	6
2 Electors Per Region	6
1 Presbyter At Large	1
2 Electors At Large	2
TOTAL	**15**

PROPOSED STRUCTURE

THREE REGIONS



Year-Long Process

- Facilitated by current Deans
- Define regional boundaries
- Prepare for changes to governance
- Create job descriptions for Conveners
- Determine budgetary requirements

CONCLUSION ONE

The Diocese of Southwest Florida is best understood not as a diocese in decline, but as a diocese in transition.

It has weathered a pandemic, multiple hurricanes, clergy transitions, demographic shifts, rising costs, and changing patterns of religious participation. Through all of that, its strongest congregations have become more adaptive, more mission-focused, and more outward-facing.

CONCLUSION ONE

Its future will likely depend on whether it can successfully convert its existing strengths, especially outreach, community trust, digital capacity, and lay leadership, into sustained engagement with younger generations and newer Floridians.

If it does, Southwest Florida appears well-positioned to remain one of the more resilient and missional dioceses in The Episcopal Church.



ONE
Diocese of Southwest Florida

Visioning Day 2.0

JANUARY 30, 2027

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Saint Boniface Episcopal Church
Siesta Key


Questions & Discussion