



# The American Cathedral in Paris

## LEADERSHIP

### *Vestry*

Ann Canby Dushane, *Senior Warden*  
Matthew Christensen, *Junior Warden*  
Joyce Chanay, *Clerk*  
Edward Bates, *Treasurer*

Christopher Barnes  
Angelina Blundell-Stelmach  
Jennifer Cortright Gosmand  
Dennis Grove  
Elizabeth Haynes  
Paul Howley  
Andrew Kluetz  
Hope Newhouse  
Kim Powell  
Bill Tompson  
Charles Trueheart

Luis Roth, *Chancellor*

*Interim Dean and Rector*  
The Rev. Timothy Safford

*Cathedral Canon*  
The Rev. Nathaniel Katz

*Canon for Music*  
Zachary Ullery

*Organist*  
Andrew Dewar

*Organ Scholar*  
Mitchell Miller

---

*Primate of the Episcopal Church USA*  
The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry

*Bishop in Charge of the Convocation of  
Episcopal Churches in Europe*  
The Rt. Rev. Mark D.W. Edington

Total Proposed Capital Campaign Goal: €5,080,000

**The American Cathedral in Paris has been part of the spiritual fabric of the city for more than a century and a half.** From its origins serving permanent American expatriates, and then military forces through two world wars, the cathedral today is blessed with multiple identities: as a thriving and diverse parish church, as the seat of the Episcopal Church in Europe, as a magnet for worshippers away from home, and as a prominent destination for liturgy and music unmatched in Paris.

The imposing neo-gothic cathedral located between the Champs-Élysées and the Seine bears the imprint of two artistic geniuses of the late 19th century—the English architect George Edmund Street and the French organ builder Aristide Cavaillé-Coll. The latter's Great Organ has always been the heartbeat of the cathedral. Alone, or accompanied by soloists and choirs, or

supporting congregational singing, the venerable Cavaillé-Coll masterpiece is integral to the cathedral's magnificent liturgies and music program, and thus to its future.

The preservation and renewal of this extraordinary legacy of sacred music calls the cathedral congregation and its friends around the world to a bold new commitment of faith and action.

In addition to the following project descriptions, further explanatory information about the condition of the organ and the proposed acoustic system can be found on the cathedral website using the following link:

**<https://amcathparis.com/capitalcampaign>**



*The newly configured organ will sound directly into the nave. The cases will be designed to appear as if they were original to the building.*



## Restore and Renew the Great Organ (€3,060,000)

### **Even after 130 years, Aristide Cavallé-Coll's Great Organ is a work in progress.**

Because of its location in the corner of the nave, the organ has been modified and enlarged over the decades to provide more support for congregational singing in 1922, 1930, and again in 1992 when the back organ was significantly expanded. But these have been stopgap efforts with only mixed success. Time and lack of financial resources have taken their toll on the pipes and wiring of the main organ, rendering elements unusable or hazardous. Restoring and reconfiguring the organ, a complicated process involving every one of its several thousand pipes, will enable it to realize the full potential that Cavallé-Coll and the cathedral architect George Edmund Street intended—and that contemporary congregations and concertgoers deserve.



*Worn pipes fall over and damage others.*

In months of project planning and consultation with experts, backed by years of study and conversation at the cathedral, the music director, organist, and organ committee recommend the renewal of the organ be entrusted to a dual consortium deeply familiar with

Cavallé-Coll organs: Klais, a major German family-operated builder founded in 1882, and Dominique Thomas, a 50 year-old family-based, boutique firm in Luxembourg. Their vision for the renewal of the organ, inside and out, strongly resonates with both the cathedral's objectives and its means.

The proposed renewal of the cathedral's Great Organ is grounded in the clarity of vision that all we are as a Christian community springs from the rich worship experience we share. The organ restoration will enrich and empower

our congregational worship and deepen our Christian formation, today and for the generations that follow us.



## Transform the Sound in the Nave (€582,000)

**Compared to similar worship spaces, the cathedral's acoustic environment lacks important qualities of reverberation essential to the multiple demands for its use:** for the organ's reach, for the choir's ability to project its voices into the nave, and for the congregation to sing in the full embrace of the music.

The installation of the Carmen digitally assisted acoustic system will allow significant improvements, especially in the increase in reverberation time and bring enhanced musical flexibility in the space. The result will be the capacity to host a wide variety of musical fare, from jazz vespers to choral

evensong, from full choral concerts to sublime solo performances, and of course the Sunday morning worship, all in the ideal acoustic environment.

The proposed solution is first-rate, is the only one recommended by multiple acoustic experts, and has been thoroughly researched and tested. None of the experts consulted was able to find any other way to significantly improve the dry acoustic of the cathedral. The sophisticated system is supported by the music director and the organ committee and will function to harmoniously showcase the glorious sounds of the restored Great Organ.



## Relight the Nave Worship and Music Space (€100,000)

**Like its organ and acoustics, the cathedral's lighting has been modified and improved over the years.** New design possibilities, sensitive to environmental concerns, allow us to introduce a new and improved, more flexible lighting system with significant savings in electrical and maintenance costs.

Removal of the flags (the poles are in very poor condition) would restore the nave to its original appearance, make it clear that the church is a home to people from all over the world, and eliminate the demand of many space users to remove the flags, which is costly, unsafe, and time-consuming for staff. Their removal would also reduce sound absorption. Alternative opportunities to display the flags, including adding flags of the home countries of all parishioners, will be explored.







## Introduce Paperless Worship (€110,000)

**Environmental, budgetary, and technological imperatives move us to contemplate dramatic reductions in the use, and waste, of paper by introducing the contents of worship bulletins on discreet wide screens in the nave.** Dynamic churches the world over are moving to this new way of congregational participation, which can be

extended to the cathedral's growing virtual audience in France and around the world. Eliminating paper bulletins for Sunday services alone will save approximately 120,000 sheets of paper per year, and although they are recycled, the environmental impact is substantial.



## Open the Nave to New Possibilities (€228,000)

**The potential for worship, concerts, and a variety of other presentations in the cathedral, including by outside partners whose rental revenue is a cornerstone of the cathedral's budget, will be dramatically expanded by the replacement of a significant number, if not all, of our pews.** Many are in serious disrepair and suffer damage from the frequent (and costly) temporary removal for special events and our Parish Hall is simply too small to accommodate large parish events. The uses of such a flexible space with handsome, comfortable individual seating are limitless, adding to the attraction of new audiences in

Paris and beyond. Flexibility of the space will further enhance accessibility.

The cost estimate is based on the purchase of 600 chairs; many churches making this transition have covered a significant percentage of the expense by selling their pews and offering chair dedication opportunities. Existing plaques will be tastefully translated into the newly configured nave; different approaches are being considered for distribution of our needlepoint kneelers and hymnals for those who need one.



## Invest in Musical Excellence (€1,000,000+)

**A key component of the renewal campaign is the establishment of a permanent endowment to support the Great Organ and the entire music program at the cathedral.** Annual disbursements from the endowment would help ensure the upkeep of the organ and help finance the positions of music

director, organist, and choristers for decades to come. Such an endowment would free up funds from the cathedral operating budget for supporting other initiatives, and shelter the music program from variations in cathedral revenues. Each €1,000,000 raised will generate approximately €40,000 annually.



Restore and Renew the Great Organ .....	€3,060,000
Transform the Sound in the Nave .....	€582,000
Relight the Nave Worship and Music Space .....	€100,000
Introduce Paperless Worship .....	€110,000
Open the Nave to New Possibilities .....	€228,000
Invest in Musical Excellence .....	Proposed Music Endowment: €1,000,000 +
<hr/>	
<i>Total</i> .....	<i>€5,080,000</i>

### DISCERNMENT PRAYER

*Almighty God*, we give thanks for the many blessings you have given us through the people and sacred beauty of our cathedral. With grateful hearts and an abiding love for you and for each other, we ask that your Spirit guide and inspire us in this journey of discernment. We seek the resources to preserve and restore what you have entrusted to us for future generations of mission and service. We ask that you guide our thoughts and hear us as we joyfully raise our voices together to shape our future. In Jesus' name we pray. *Amen.*

## Essential Gifts

This chart illustrates the size and number of gifts necessary for a successful €5,080,000 capital campaign.

<i>Size of Gift</i>	<i>Number Needed</i>	<i>Cumulative Total</i>	<i>Monthly (over 3 years)</i>
€1,000,000.....	1 .....	€1,000,000 .....	€27,778
€500,000.....	2 .....	€2,000,000 .....	€13,889
€250,000.....	2 .....	€2,500,000 .....	€6,944
€150,000.....	4 .....	€3,100,000.....	€4,167
€75,000.....	6 .....	€3,550,000.....	€2,083
€50,000.....	8 .....	€3,950,000.....	€1,389
€25,000.....	12.....	€4,250,000.....	€694
€15,000.....	15.....	€4,475,000.....	€417
€10,000.....	25.....	€4,725,000.....	€278
€5,000.....	35.....	€4,900,000.....	€139
€3,000.....	40.....	€5,020,000.....	€83
€1,000.....	50.....	€5,070,000.....	€28
Less than €1,000.....	Many .....	Goal Achieved.....	Variable

## MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission* of the American Cathedral in Paris is to share the good news of God in Christ by worship, word, and example, as a parish church in the city of Paris and as a cathedral in Europe, living our faith and serving the common good, inspired by our American, Episcopal, and Anglican heritage and open to the cultures, languages and faiths that surround us. We pursue this mission through prayer, observance of the sacraments, fellowship, education, stewardship, and outreach to our community and the world beyond.