

Archives Standing Leadership Group

Submitted by: Nancy Donohue

List of the members currently serving on your ministry or leadership team:

Rae Conley, Robert Schneider, Nancy Donohue

As you look at the goals you had planned for 2021, what were you able to accomplish? Please be as specific as possible.

Projects completed by the SLG:

- ❖ Helped pack and move items from the sanctuary to the CE building for storage
- ❖ Weeded cataloged books in anticipation of JVMT construction
- ❖ Supported SEAC with research at the Historical Society of Philadelphia and elsewhere re the design and construction of the reredos and other elements in the sanctuary; provided SEAC with information and photos from the archives; researched the provenance of the baptismal font and other items from St. John's Reformed Church
- ❖ Bob Schneider did extensive scholarly research for and presented the Anniversary Sunday sermon on the historical context/interpretation of the Bible in the reredos
- ❖ Checked out two climate-controlled storage facilities
- ❖ Answered nine outside requests for information from the archives

Unachieved projects:

- ❖ Visiting the site of the German Reformed Burial Ground in Germantown postponed due to COVID
- ❖ Researching cost effective digitization of photos and importing the photos into the online catalog
- ❖ Working with Community Ventures and the architects re designing new archives storage

What do you hope to accomplish in 2022?

Goals for 2022:

- ❖ Pack all the items in the archives in an as-archive-appropriate-manner as possible
- ❖ Plan remote storage so that potentially needed items are more easily accessed
- ❖ Work with Community Ventures and the architects re archives space in the new building
- ❖ Plan for photographic documentation of site preparation and building progress at the construction site
- ❖ Document temporary office space, etc.
- ❖ Attend and document any archaeological work done at the building site
- ❖ Visit the German Reformed Burial Ground in Germantown
- ❖ Invite a speaker for Anniversary Sunday
- ❖ Plan displays for before and during construction period
- ❖ Undertake research at HSP and elsewhere as needed
- ❖ Answer research and web-generated questions

- ❖ Support planning for the historical aspects of the 300th anniversary celebration in 2027

COVID will potentially have less of an impact on the week-to-week work of the SLG because all the members are vaccinated. Packing up the archives and then documenting the JVMT project will be intense, but preserving and documenting what Old First does is precisely the task of the Archives SLG.