



ADVENT CHRISTIAN RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITIES OF CARING. SEASONED WITH GRACE.

REPORT TO THE 2026 EASTERN REGIONAL CONVENTION

As part of the wider senior living profession, Advent Christian Retirement Communities finds itself in a position that's both promising and unsettled. In the past six years, an estimated 22,471 residents needing long-term care have been displaced because of nursing home closures. Paradoxically, baby boomers continue to age, creating opportunities for greater service. "For-profit" senior living developers of new communities presently outweigh not-for-profit, mission-driven providers like ACRC.

The ever-shifting path now traveled by providers of 24-hour senior care isn't a strange one to us. Vernon Green – our nursing home at Vernon Homes in Vermont has labored under the strains specific to that profession, requiring careful fiscal management for that campus in coming years. At the same time, the prospect of our revolutionary vision for 24-hour nursing care (see below) hovers close to reality – a vision that, if realized, would establish Vernon Green as a regional leader and resolve the pressures noted above.

And there are other good grounds for perseverance. Vernon Green doesn't stand alone: flanked by Vernon Hall and Vernon Birches on the Vermont campus along with Meetinghouse Village campus in Maine, our human and material resources as a whole serve to sustain our respective parts.

An additional strength, as just noted, is our historic profile as innovators – one of our corporate values long before it became a market survival strategy. For years, we've broadcast the development of the care model called the "Green House." This transformative model would replace the current Vernon Green with a "real home" approach to nursing care - displacing the traditional, hospital-like model familiar to many. Details can be found at www.greenhousevt.org.



Virtual depiction of the Green House building on the Vernon campus

Numerous and massive hurdles in the pursuit of this innovation have been surmounted. The last is financing – previously assured until a revised construction estimate raised development costs by \$10 million. Grant funding of \$1.85 million this past June provided a gratifying start toward this goal. We're pursuing this need through other layered grant and gift prospects. Meanwhile, our board and leadership continue to trust in the grace of God to bring to fruition this long-held vision.

Occupancy remained high last year at our Meetinghouse Village campus. In his first full year, Executive Director Scott Towle navigated high turnover and, with our board, pondered expansion and capital investment possibilities. By offering independent living for age 55+ seniors at moderate rental fees, strong demand for our services continues at our coastal Maine location.

Another gratifying light on last year's path was the support from friends of ACRC. In 2025, we received gift income of \$119,000 from our open-handed family of donors. These gifts – and the hearts behind them – help make possible the program distinctives and improvements that the fees we collect cannot.

We're also grateful for the capacity at both campuses to subsidize Advent Christian pastors, missionaries, and other denominational workers whose income is not sufficient to meet care and residential needs. Continuation of our "Minister's Fund" is gratifying since it was the founding principle on which the old "Vernon Home" was established in 1920.



South Campus, Meetinghouse Village

Finally, we remain grateful for a rich legacy of servants on whose shoulders we, ACRC's current stewards, stand. I recently discovered a 1966 order of service for the dedication of Vernon Green. The names of godly men and women from our past rose off the page as a testament to our heritage – a reminder of what God can do through faith and perseverance. Heeding the words from Leviticus, "Rise up before the aged and honor the gray-haired; I am the Lord," they sustained a mission that we who follow them seek to make endure – even in the complexities of our times.

Respectfully,

Larry Knowles, President

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