



OUR FUTURE FACILITY: Update No. 1

January 2013

This is the first of periodic updates on the discussions regarding the future of the Seattle Unity Church facility. These discussions came about because of the ongoing challenges we face in maintaining our aging facility, the rapid growth and changes in our South Lake Union neighborhood, and because interested parties have made some approaches to us about purchasing our property. In response, the Board, the staff, and a small planning group met over the past nine months to discuss our options. These discussions continued with the broader congregation at three meetings in October 2012.

The four options these forums considered were:

1. Stay and continue to repair the facility as needed—essentially, our current state
2. Stay in the facility and conduct a major renovation
3. Sell the facility and move to a new location
4. Stay and partner with someone to redevelop at our current site

People saw each option as having positives and negatives, and these were fully discussed and reviewed. A key concern for many people is to have the church not take on major debt (we currently have no debt) and that we seek out a situation where we could share the financial risk with another party. Another important factor for many is that our current location is ideal and that by remaining in downtown Seattle, there is a great opportunity for Seattle Unity both to stay connected to our roots, as well as continue to be a positive force in the neighborhood as it grows and changes around us.

At the end of each of our discussions, we asked people to vote for the option they most favored.

The overall results were as follows:

1. Stay and repair – 12.6%
2. Stay/major renovation – 30.2%
3. Sell and move – 10.1%
4. Stay and redevelop – 47.1%

The planning group has sent to the Board its recommendation that the Board continue to focus on option 4: Stay and redevelop with a partner at our current site. The Board will be discussing this over the next few months, and the topic will be on the agenda at the Annual Meeting on February 10th.