

Seattle Unity New Building FAQ

We affirm Divine Order and Divine Guidance throughout this process. We also honor each person's process releasing what is and celebrating what we are creating together.

1. When will we have to move out of the building?

We are scheduled to move out of our existing building early 2019.

2. Have we found a temporary space yet? / Where will we be during construction?

We have identified a potential temporary worship space that we are currently exploring as an option. As soon as the space is certain we will let everyone know. We are looking to have temporary office space in SLU in order to maintain a presence in this neighborhood through construction. We consider that time important to building relationships within the neighborhood in preparation to moving into our new building.

3. Will we have parking in the new building?

Yes, Seattle Unity will have 50 dedicated spaces in the underground parking garage.

4. Is there a space for a Library? / Where will the Library be in the new building?

Since we are reducing the size of our building by half (28,000 sf to approximately 14,000 sf) we will have more integrated and mixed-use spaces. We will keep the core of our Unity and New Thought collection, especially books that are out of print. Meeting rooms and other spaces will have bookshelves integrated within them that will house our collection.

5. Is there a space for the Bookstore? / Where will the Bookstore be in the new building?

- a. As a result of reducing the size of our building by half (28,000 to 14,000 sf) we will need to have more mixed-uses of the spaces available. We will not have a dedicated bookstore space, but are exploring places at the first and second floor levels where we can have books available for sale that we are using for classes and support our core mission.*
- b. Also, sales in our bookstore have consistently been declining with more people purchasing their books online or utilizing electronic versions of books.*
- c. Unity as a larger movement is also aware of the trend to increased use of digital media and has for several years been migrating to online versions of core Unity and New Thought publications. The Unity archives at Unity Village and TruthUnity.net are two examples of this. The progress towards digital media is consistent with current trends, as well as addressing how we can be better stewards of our resources and become more green and earth friendly than we are now.*
- d. The bookstore does not make a profit and has not for several years. We have been incredibly blessed having Cindi Fuda dedicate her time and experience in the bookstore*

as a volunteer. Finding volunteers who are willing to serve in the bookstore at a level required of maintaining an inventory and the financial aspects of it has been a challenge.

6. Is there a restroom for the children?

Yes, there is currently a child-size toilet adjacent to the nursery / toddler space, as well as a changing table. Olson Kundig is also exploring the location of a family restroom on the first floor level based on available space and other shared spaces.

7. Are there separate men and women's restrooms?

There are separate men and women's restrooms on the ground floor level. Gender-neutral restrooms are on the second and third floor levels. The gender-neutral restrooms are like individual closets with floor to ceiling walls and doors, providing complete privacy.

8. It doesn't seem like there are enough restrooms – are there?

- a. Olson Kundig has designed the building to meet code requirements.*
- b. By having gender-neutral bathrooms on the second and third floor levels we actually increase the available restroom capacity within the entire building.*
- c. Also, consider that we currently have a sanctuary with a capacity of 650 and our new sanctuary will have a capacity of approximately 240. The number of restrooms needed in the new building will be less, however with the current design we will have more restroom capacity than we have now.*

9. Where will small groups and classes meet?

The new building will have more shared spaces. Classes can take place in the Conference Room, Meditation Hall, Unity Hall, and Sanctuary. There will also be some smaller meeting places for small groups.

10. Can there be a cry room for parents with young children?

Olson Kundig is currently exploring the possibility of having a cry room near the sound booth, which will be above the Sanctuary at the back.

11. Where will yoga meet while we are in temporary space?

Guru Gayatri is a separate organization distinct from Seattle Unity and rents space from Seattle Unity. We appreciate and value the relationship Seattle Unity has with Guru Gayatri, and they are responsible for determining where they meet when this building is no longer available.

12. Will there be space for yoga in the new building?

The Meditation Hall on the second level will be a flexible space that can be used for meditation and classes; including yoga, qigong, and other types of movement classes / meditations. (Reminder: Guru Gayatri is a rental group and when we move out of our existing building they

will be looking for a space to have their classes. We appreciate and value the relationship Seattle Unity has with Guru Gaytri. Guru Gayatri will determine their future meeting space.)

It is envisioned that both the Unity Hall and Sanctuary in the new building will be more flexible in terms of mixed uses.

13. Isn't the outdoor space on the third level wasted space since it is rainy so much of the year?

The design includes a retractable roof that will allow the outdoor area adjacent to the Unity Hall to be covered.

14. Will there be a kitchen? / Where is the kitchen?

Yes, on the third floor level adjacent to the Unity Hall.

15. How many people can fit in the new Sanctuary?

The new Sanctuary has a capacity of approximately 240.

16. Is there a sacred space on the ground floor level?

In response to congregational feedback at our April community meeting, Olson Kundig incorporated a small chapel at the ground floor level.

17. Is there enough storage space for our decorations and ritual items?

We will have less storage space in the new building. This is an opportunity to simplify what we have and reduce our impact on the earth by lightening our load. In the new building we will have storage space for the ritual items and historical documents that are core to who Seattle Unity is, our mission, and services.

18. Will there be a place for tables and chairs in the Unity Hall? / Is there storage space for the chairs in the Sanctuary?

Olson Kundig has designed several areas for storage on all three levels, including the ability to store the tables and chairs from the Unity Hall and Sanctuary. This will be further developed during the Design Development phase. Costigan Integrated has also consulted with an Event Planner and Furniture consultant to estimate needed spaces.

19. Can we have pews instead of chairs in the new Sanctuary?

One of the priorities for the new building is to make it usable for multiple purposes throughout the week. Our current Sanctuary sits empty most of the week and we are limited with the types of interactive and other types of services we can have because of the lack of flexibility of the space.

We also need to be able to have multiple uses within all of our spaces since we are reducing the available area of our building by half. If we have chairs that can be moved and rearranged, it is possible for us to have small group meetings and classes, as well as movement activities in the

Sanctuary. We may also want to be able to change the chairs to face south towards Denny Park for certain worship services and this kind of flexibility is possible by having chairs.

20. Where will the tapestries (altars) go in the new building?

Our tapestries were created specifically for this Sanctuary space, which is significantly larger than what our new Sanctuary space will be, and they were also designed to be displayed together to represent the core value of honoring all spiritual paths. They physically will not fit in the new, smaller sanctuary space. The Design Team is looking at how this Seattle Unity core value of honoring all spiritual paths can be represented in the design of our new building.

21. Have we considered LEED certification?

The cost of LEED certification is beyond our budget however, Olson Kundig is looking at ways to incorporate green building design elements and efficiencies. Also, the certification itself is not what is most important, rather if we have a building that has minimized negative environmental impacts to the greatest extent possible.

22. Have you considered the need to somewhat regularly update technology (AV) within the building?

Yes, it is a priority of the Design Team to make ongoing maintenance and periodic upgrades easier and less expensive by having accessible panels within the building design.

23. How will heat resulting from light through the south facing windows in the Sanctuary be managed?

Olson Kundig has incorporated an alternative material (instead of glass) along the upper portion of the space to minimize the heat impacts, while still being able to see out to the tree-line in Denny Park. During the Design Development phase they will be further designing how the Sanctuary will be completely darkened and efficient ways to manage heating and cooling.