

## **UPDATE: May 1, 2014**

Since our last update [see Links below] in December, our spiritual community has accomplished much to drive our new facility planning forward. Here are the key activities and decisions that have occurred in the first quarter of 2014.

### **Feasibility Study**

The Seattle Unity Visioning Team (also known as SUV, the main planning task force) interviewed several architectural firms to determine who we would work with to conduct an initial feasibility study regarding the proposed use of our current site.

We engaged Hewitt Architects, a well-regarded Seattle firm, to conduct this study and to present to the congregation at the Annual Meeting some initial thoughts on how our current site could be configured.

### **Congregational Vote at Annual Meeting**



At the Annual Meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup>, the question before the congregation was whether to authorize the Board of Trustees to invite financial options to sell or lease a portion of our property at the north end to raise capital to cover the cost of redeveloping the south end of the property for the new church facility.

David Hewitt of Hewitt Architects presented a concept for how our property would be divided into two parcels and provided some initial thoughts on how the two buildings—the new church facility and the residential building to be built on the north parcel—might look when sited on our current property.

The voting members of the congregation overwhelmingly approved the proposal to divide the property and move forward in the planning process.

### **Continuing the Planning Process**

Since the Annual Meeting, the SUV Team has continued to work with the City land use departments on securing city approval for our proposal. The initial city response has been positive, but it will take the city a while to make a final decision on our plans.



## In the meantime, SUV is focusing on three next steps:

Identifying an architectural firm. The team has solicited and received proposals from 3 architectural firms. We have had an initial meeting with each and will be meeting again in early May for further discussions before making a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. In addition to providing us with a facility design, the architects will also guide us through the Master Use Permit process (aka “MUP”—you’ll be hearing that acronym a lot), which is a city permitting process that must be completed prior to building permits being issued so building can begin.

Identifying potential buyers for the north parcel. We are beginning to compile a list of entities that might be interested in buying and developing the north portion of our current site. We are currently researching other sites in the South Lake Union area and what they have sold for in order for us to understand better what the current market value is like and what we can reasonably expect to receive for the north parcel. We are also finalizing a list of conditions and requirements that we will be negotiating with potential buyers.

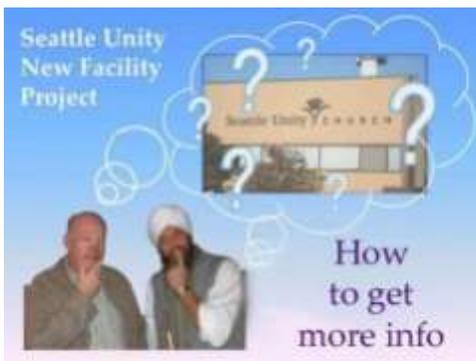


Gathering congregational input. Rev. Karen has begun to convene a series of congregational visioning sessions. The purpose of these sessions is to gather input from the congregation about their ideas and dreams for the new facility. We will provide the information gathered from these sessions to the architects as they begin their design work. Announcements for these sessions will be made at the Sunday services and in eNews, our weekly email newsletter.

## The Seattle Unity Visioning Team currently includes:

Tom Curran	Scott Caldwell	Deborah Lee
Rev. Karen Lindvig	Greg Rupert	Faith Ireland
Jim Roberts	Jan Campbell	Desi Bailey
Mariella Adams-Roberts	Gerald Schley	Rymii Kaio
Melissa Mager		

## Three ways to get updates and answers to your questions



Now that the new facility project is kicking into higher gear, we will be updating this information on a regular basis.

1. Please check out the updated [link to visual timeline](#) as well.
2. If you have a question about the new facility project, you can email your question to [suvision@seattleunity.org](mailto:suvision@seattleunity.org) and you will receive a response within a few days.
3. Also, we will be setting up regular face-to-face time to ask questions directly of Board members and SUV members. The first one is on Sunday June 15th at 12:30 pm.

## Links to updates:

[Latest high-level timeline](#)

[December 2013 update](#)

[Video – Dec. 8, 2013 meeting](#)

[January 2013 update](#)