

Themes included in the Post-its® from February 21, 2016 Annual Meeting

In Answer to the Question:

“What do you need, or what do you think the community needs, to move through the coming changes easily and in alignment with Unity principles?”

So many voices of God! We received 115 written responses to this question at our Annual Meeting and want you to know how much we value your input and ideas. Thank you for contributing to what is an on-going conversation.

Members of our **“Change Team”** (Scott Caldwell, Louise Carnachan, Dahlia Cohen, Jim Fotter, Nancy Glaser, Heidi Nathe and Rev. Karen) have categorized the Post-its® you wrote on by topic areas. The topic areas we identified are outlined in bold below. A transcript of all of the post-it notes (only people’s names have been removed) can be found on the Seattle Unity website under [What’s New](#) → [New Facility News](#).

On May 1st, we will have a congregational meeting in the Fellowship Hall **11:45am to 12:45pm**. The Y.O.U. will have a potato bar available (\$5 minimum love offering, please.) At the meeting we will review the timeline and where we are, talk about upcoming decision points and the issues we will be weighing as a community as we make our decisions. Everyone, members or not, is welcome to attend this session. (*Please note* that in meetings when we vote, you need to be a member to cast a vote. Yes, there is a Membership Class scheduled for June 5th : sign up and become a member!)

Vision

- ◇ Ask for our input on what we want to create in the new spiritual space.
- ◇ Carry our vision to the discussions/negotiations with potential buyers.
- ◇ Let’s create excitement about the future while letting go of the past.

Input for the New Building

- ◇ Create a transparent process that is accessible to those who would like to participate.
- ◇ Consider community impact (as examples, we might explore non-church uses of Unity space as well as project labor agreements to support the work of women and minorities in the construction of the building).
- ◇ Prior to member votes, share the 3-5 top developers (architects/designs) and the key criteria for recommending the top candidates.

Initial Wants for New Building

- ◇ Honor the music/arts program in the new facility.
- ◇ Create a green building balanced with cost-effectiveness.
- ◇ Include natural light and spaciousness; a sanctuary with flexible and comfortable seating; a recreation of the chapel; upgraded technology; garden space; preservation of the rhododendron; and parking accessibility with opportunities for parking as a source of revenue.
- ◇ Several people have spoken up since the annual meeting about the importance of a kitchen in nurturing community.

Programs

- ◇ Affinity groups and home groups provide essential opportunities for us to deepen our connections with one another.
- ◇ We can create small groups within our own neighborhoods and groups that help with life challenges and bereavement.
- ◇ We value our Youth and Family Ministry and we would like to see it grow and thrive.

Status Reports and Information Sharing

- ◇ Strive to communicate in a manner that is aligned with our spiritual mission.
- ◇ Frequent, regular communication through a variety of sources is highly valued.
- ◇ Include regular updates in weekly services as well as membership meetings.
- ◇ Make use of social media and e-news updates when practical.
- ◇ Create interactive communication sites with space for questions and answers.
- ◇ Update our community directory in 2017 to help us stay connected.

Rituals and Letting Go

- ◇ Use the transition process as an opportunity to “walk our Unity principles” as we deepen our individual and collective spiritual journeys.
- ◇ Create rituals and ceremonies to ease the transition from existing space to the new space.
- ◇ Capture favorite memories through stories and photos that can be shared and published. Build processes to help us vision our future, grieve our loss, and prepare for rebirth within a new space.
- ◇ Use intentional ceremonies that incorporate our music program and traditional rituals (burning bowl, white stone etc.) to help us bridge the transition from old to new.
- ◇ Thoughtful and well-planned blessing services support the community.
- ◇ Save and share relics from the current building as a powerful remembrance.
- ◇ Continued use of the labyrinth and holding picnics in Denny Park can keep us connected to our spiritual space.

Holding Community During Construction and Residing in our Temporary Home

- ◇ Value efforts to maintain a cohesive community during our time in temporary space.
- ◇ Create forums to dialogue about what the community desires for our temporary home.
- ◇ Value the needs of our music program, service times that encourage family and young adult participation, and adequate parking for our programs.
- ◇ Communicate early and often about where we will be.

Growing the Community/Marketing

- ◇ A focus on multigenerational activities is essential to a thriving spiritual community.
- ◇ Ideas of the younger community can help us create welcoming space.
- ◇ Let’s create opportunities to connect in the South Lake Union neighborhood/residential area to attract new members to our community.
- ◇ Social media is a tool that broadens our presence in the community and holds the potential for growing our membership.

**For more information:
join us May 1st from 11:45am to 12:45pm.
for a congregational meeting in the Fellowship Hall**