

Individual Comments from Attendees at February 21, 2016, Annual Meeting

What follows is a compilation of the Post-its® comments on the new facility change process made by attendees at the Annual Meeting on February 21st, 2016. We have removed any contact information and have organized the various comments into several theme areas.

These comments were made in response 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?”

Vision

- One-to-one meetings with congregants regarding their ideas of who we want to be together
- Consider spiritual partners as we re-create
- Clarify vision of what we most want to create in our new spiritual center before we accept offers
- Visioning of new church should happen before talking to developers
- Create a visioning group
- Regular visioning meetings about facility uses and design
- Boldly imagine what we want before we request offers
- Begin community conversation what we’re going toward, to build joy while letting go of past

Input for the New Building

- Run brainstorming sessions, each with a different topic
- Community design review to vet the architectural layout and make suggested changes before it is finalized
- That we use a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) with the building contractor. It could mandate how much of the work goes to women and minority owned businesses and the number of women, people of color and apprentices employed on the job (no double counting)
- Congregants may have great new ideas of what the building could mean to the community as yet un-mined
- Some forum (video?) to say what we would like to see in our new facility. How can we make our individual voices be heard?
- Negotiate for more parking- maybe a parking lot not used on Sunday. Parking is SO difficult now!
- I would like to participate in the design and development process.
- Prior to the vote on one developer, show the Community the top 3-5 developers and the key criteria for selecting the top one to vote on.
- Prior to the vote on one building design, show the Community the top 3-5 designs and the key criteria for selecting the top one to vote on/approve.
- When it’s time to design what the new building will contain, ask for input, i.e., kitchen so we can continue to hold events.
- If you’re going to have teams, don’t just appoint people. Ask the community who would want to be involved. The same people are appointed continuously. We should all be able to be a part of the change.
- Allow membership to be involved in making suggestions for non-church usage, i.e., daycare, meeting space
- Open meetings for planning of our facility
- My stepdaughter, Anna, would like to participate in the design for the new facility. Please reach out to me in order to connect with her.
- What estimate has been created or used to determine scope, size and cost of a new facility?

Wants for New Building

- Ask Sada Simran to share his interest in Guru Gagatri partnering with us.
- Please make sure ceilings are high for spaciousness and plenty of natural light
- What would honor our magical music/arts program in new facility?
- Somehow retain the chapel dome-like ambience
- A round chapel, about the same size as the one we now have
- Parking source of revenue

- Creativity center area in the new building dedicated to art/craft/music projects
- Have permanent seating in the new sanctuary, NO folding chairs!
- Flexible seating in sanctuary
- Remote conference facilities to attend sermon/class remotely
- Have an enclosed garden similar to current garden
- Heliport in new building with Wednesday night helicopter rides
- Upgrade technology
- Heated floors
- Daycare center
- Make sure energy efficient/environmental building material/design is cost effective. Don't go overboard, i.e., LEED certified can mean no Wi-Fi connection in the building without proper repeaters because of how the windows have to be shielded
- Incorporate green building ideas in the change

Want to Save

- The chapel in the new building
- Can we save the giant pink rhododendron?

Programs

- We ought to have salons
- Facilitate carpooling (grows NH community)
- Carpooling (lessens need for parking)
- Communication with each other and groups- meetings to talk and share
- Group or groups that help with the grief in the changes in life
- Build small groups by neighborhood
- Facilitated home groups/prayer groups (on-going)

Communication

- Integrate social media into more communication- FB and Twitter, all of them
- E-news update when possible
- Lots of visuals of the process once the developer has been chosen
- A monthly meeting for those who want a detailed update
- Succinct updates, whenever appropriate early in each service (challenge for change team: couch this as much as possible in spiritual terms)
- Just keep communicating as you have with updates by Rev. Karen etc.
- Make it clear to members that the info is available and that it is important to pay attention and not be complaining about changes they have not paid attention to
- Another updated community directory by Summer, 2017 to build sense of community while in transition
- Keep us informed of what's going on in the decision making process, even if new decisions haven't been made
- I would like to see group meetings for all members to attend on a monthly basis to hear the change team's progress and to allow members to relay membership concerns back to our business potential partners
- Improve communication church-wide internal and external
- Newsletter
- Graphic pictures at service of construction process
- Regular updates, to do list status and outcomes
- Suggestion box
- Page on website for updates
- New webpage
- Better communication
- Information to small (study) groups periodically
- Interactive website for Q&A about the change
- Sound bite updates in email and a dedicated "bulletin board" area at church

- Easy access to information
- Don't wait for long periods to get information to the membership
- Weekly announcements during the service as to what is going on in this process
- Active communication site to find out what is going on
- Send out monthly or quarterly newsletters about the progress via email
- 2 minute weekly update at service
- Hotline for questions

Rituals and Letting Go

- Have a workshop to discuss how the new building connects to each Unity Principle. This could do double duty as it also allows us to deeply learn the principles.
- Coordinate the music program with the steps of transition
- A well-planned and thoughtful blessing ceremony or service for the closing of the building
- Keep using the labyrinth at Denny Park (activities)
- Keep SU picnic at Denny Park even during transition
- How do our ideas change if we view the upcoming changes as a work of art? Or as a community of archetypes or as the hero's journey or?
- Collect photos and stories by congregants (or videos) of their attachments/stories in various parts of the building
- Make sure that any youth who grew up/came through the church are contacted and given notice that the building is coming down, so they can process the idea. Invite them to a goodbye ceremony
- Pray, always pray and ask for guidance!
- Folks write favorite church memories (publicize altogether)
- Grieving process in community
- Out with the old burning bowl, grieving old building
- In with the new, white stone visioning what we want – need to focus on this aspect more, will lead to better outcome and make grieving easier
- Let folks take a piece of church when destroyed, e.g., make bracelets or smooth pieces of sacred church wood
- Ceremony- abandon the pews (dance in the aisles)
- Rituals to say goodbye to the physical space
- Drumming ceremony- use drums loaned from Men's Wisdom Council and others brought by community
- Embrace the archetype of the Phoenix

During Construction/Temporary Space

- Details and instruction early and often about new temporary location
- Consider change of time for service with transition of location- 10AM is too early for families and young adults. At least 10:30, preferably 11AM (classes earlier?)
- Identifying early a wonderful temporary space for us to congregate in 2018
- To feel excited about where we are going physically every step of the way
- Clarify what we want in our transitional location
- How to maintain the sense of spiritual community during the building phase, when we will need to move.
- Knowing where we can meet or will meet during construction (i.e., across the street?)
- Make sure transition space has adequate parking for Sunday and Wednesday

Youth and Family Ministry

- I hope we put more consideration to our youth program. Marelu can't do it alone. I/we should cherish what she has worked for so long (?)
- I would like to see more people volunteer to serve as teachers and assistants and childcare givers so we don't lose our families

Marketing

- Hire Terry Loving to do the social media marketing
- Hire a social media person **PLEASE!!!!**

- Market to residential buildings in our neighborhood to help maintain and grow our membership
- Hire/train with marketing professionals: social media, South Lake Union, new thought (larger community)

Growing the Community

- Encourage more multi-gen activities in the church
- Actually put together a multi-generational group of people to figure out how to grow numbers
- Incorporate a way to help homeless families into the change
- Sports teams: Baseball, bowling, etc.
- Focus on multigenerational activities! There is no future without the support of the youth
- Speak to the younger community **under 40**. Make this a welcoming place
- How can we use the development of a new modern space to attract new younger members?