

A Summary of the Events Leading to This Questionnaire

For those of you who have joined us recently and to remind us all about the process we have gone through, here is a summary of the events to date. This will help you put the accompanying questionnaire in context.

Our sanctuary with the lovely natural wood ceiling was built 50 years ago. At that time the plan was for this to be a social hall and for a sanctuary to be built next to the oak grove. The building has served us well as both sanctuary and social hall. The classrooms, offices, and meeting rooms were also built 50 years ago lacking double pane windows, green building methods and air conditioning....items which were not common for buildings then.

We have some up-dating to do as well as planning for future growth. Planning has been going on for many years, most intensely since 2008 beginning with our all-day "Searching for the Future" workshop led by Carole Czujko. There was wide agreement that we needed an over-all 50-year master plan rather than piece-meal fixes.

We started with planning a new welcoming entry with a canopy. This was done in part to clarify the somewhat obscure sanctuary entryway for newcomers, and in part to exercise our long dormant planning and constructing muscles as a prelude to this current and more comprehensive process. We had meetings in the Fahs room about the entry and about other ideas for the future of our beautiful campus. Later we had a meeting in the sanctuary for envisioning our ideal campus. Nine tables were set up representing different functional areas: Worship, Food prep, Religious Education, Offices, etc. and we made long wish lists. The question of what to do about the duplexes spawned a Housing Forum for all comers. Mike Malinowski, architect and friend of the congregation provided leadership. The resulting ideas can still be seen on our web site.

It became clear we could not proceed without more detailed information about the condition of our buildings and other functional aspects such as needs for electricity, heating and cooling, flood control, etc. as well as modern code requirements. For this the UUMPF (UU Master Planning Facilitators) committee asked for bids for an in-depth technical site review. Jeff Gold and Associates were hired and this site review has been completed. (see UUSS.org web site)

This year, with the continued help of Jeff Gold and Associates, we plan to accomplish the 50 year master plan complete with code requirements and costs. There will probably be several phases to this plan. That is the reason for this questionnaire and why your in-put is so important. We want the final plan to reflect the priorities and wishes of the entire congregation. Please fill it in with your ideas and comments. You are very important to the on-going process of planning not only as we consider our current needs but also as we look forward to future generations.

Your questionnaires need to be turned in by July 10, 2011, electronically, by mail or at the UUSS office. Thank you for your crucial participation in this important step in our history.