

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

STEP BY STEP

JULY 7, 2014

ISSUE #45



A TIME TO CONTEMPLATE...

Rev. Jennifer Ryu and the Design Build Team hosted two conversational gatherings on Monday, June 30. It was a time for WUU's to imagine the programming possibilities for the new spaces provided in Phase 1 of the Guernsey Tingle Master Plan. Two additional opportunities are scheduled on Wednesday, July 9 (see note below). Please plan to attend one or both of these meeting to help imagine the programming possibilities for our new spaces. **Included here are comments received at last Monday's gatherings.**

The Proposed Administrative/Office Space:

- Brings increased "professionalism" to the administrative functions and provides the focal point to serve the congregation's ministries.
- Centralizes office supplies, mailboxes, resources and shared equipment thereby providing greater efficiency and easier access for programs.
- Enables people to see our vibrant space and that sends a message of what WUU believes is important to the community.
- Enables staff to have an improved central filing system for staff and committees.
- Enables volunteers to use a wider variety of resources for religious education since materials are more centralized.
- Makes it possible to have a safe place for staff and guests to come and go. Offers the benefit of having an attractive and efficient workspace for staff and volunteers.
- Offers needed privacy because the walls can be soundproofed, and entry from the side door will facilitate discrete and confidential meetings.
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- Places the administrative functions within the center of where things are happening.
- Provides a visible sign that WUU is open for various uses.

Possible Considerations:

- We will need staff and/or volunteers to be in the reception area to welcome members, friends and visitors throughout the day.
- We will need to create working space for intern minister (Fall 2015 arrival).
- The library collection will be distributed according to areas of interest, such as: Polity in the Administrative workroom, Historical/Religious in the conference room, Social Justice in the hall bookcases, and OWL, transgender, youth-oriented books in Fahs. The phase 1 design creates several sitting areas that can be used to peruse a book and thus, funds can be directed to other critical building needs.
- May want to consider moving Suzanne's office next to Ellyn's office so that they can work together more efficiently and also share reception duties.
- May want to add a sink to the Workroom for the preparation of coffee, etc.

The Worship and Music Programs:

- A high slanting roof in RE rooms would create a beautiful space for the children, and would help with acoustics when the choir or instrumental ensembles use these rooms for practice.
- The new design makes it easier for the choir to practice and warm up in the sanctuary before the services, as the large Gathering Hall can hold congregants prior to the service without crowding. The phase 1 design allows for other practice rooms for the choir when needed.
- Exterior ritual space—needs to be designated in the master plan for fire pit, maypole, labyrinth.
- Gathering Hall can be used for service overflow
- Gathering spaces will need acoustical tiles.
- Live video streaming will be needed for the services (Tech group is working on a dream list for the sound room).
- More doors into the sanctuary will provide easier access and visibility.
- Music can also be made in the Gathering Hall, courtyard and chapel.
- New and larger spaces in phase 1 offer many more meeting and gathering options for programs and special activities so that the sanctuary will have more limited use, thus curtailing energy costs and the reshuffling of chairs.
- New spaces will have higher energy efficiency.
- Offers the opportunity to be creative, such as designating a music room for all ages, at least for some of the time. Similarly another room could be designated for arts/crafts for all ages.
- Overcrowding at the later worship service will be reduced starting in September because the Board has designated \$5K to add children's program, nursery/childcare and music element to 9:15 worship service.
- Possibly conduct some worship services in the courtyard.
- There is much value and support for the design of a special sacred space. A new term, other than "Chapel," will be selected that conveys a more inclusive space.
 - A place for interfaith programs; use warmer colors and install symbols of world's religions on the walls indicating that all are welcome.
 - A sacred space for ritual, healing, renewal, small weddings (and wedding prep), memorials, personal & group meditation.
 - Becomes a signature sacred space and resource to the larger Williamsburg/regional community, also the "None" community (people who do not identify with any religious denomination).
 - Opportunities for children's worship and a quiet comfortable setting for parents with restless children.
 - Overflow space for crowded worship services, fitted with AV installation.

Possible Consideration:

- A piano will be needed in any room designated as a secondary space for the choir to practice.

Other Topics Unrelated to Administrative and Worship/Music Programs

- **Kitchen**—We need a stackable washer and dryer.
- **Gathering Hall**
 - Will enable coffee groups to meet @ WUU at the coffee bar vs. Panera, etc.
 - It's a place to hold a rally.
 - Rich colors, warm and welcoming couches and seats, places for people to talk.
- **Religious Education/Program Meeting Rooms**
 - Can we have small toilets in the nursery? It is against our policy to have nursery caregivers leave children alone with only one caregiver at a time.
 - Would enable options for sponsoring moms day out, drop-in program or Friday night out for parents.
- **Support Spaces**

- More bike racks and connection to the path behind WUU would be nice.
- We will have a family bathroom/non-gender bathroom—this is an important statement.
- Will enable us to remove stored items from the attic—a fire/safety hazard and not legally permitted.
- **General Comments**
 - Plan for "who is going where" will be done with the design after a positive vote in the fall.
 - If the financial feasibility study does not predict an adequate amount for phase 1
 - Need vs. Desire may force the “Chapel” to go into Phase 2.
 - Quality level can be lowered-try not to remove raw space if possible.



Two additional conversational opportunities will take place this week to allow the congregation and staff to contemplate the possibilities for Building Our Future. Please plan to attend one or both of these meetings:

Wednesday, July 9, in Fahs:

5:30-6:45 pm (Religious Education for All Ages)

7:00-8:15 pm (Outreach, Fellowship, Mission)

IT HAPPENS ONCE A GENERATION OR TWO: AFFIRMING & ENABLING OUR VISION, BUILDING OUR FUTURE

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