

# BUILDING OUR FUTURE

WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

# STEP BY STEP

JULY 16, 2014

ISSUE #46



On Wednesday evening, July 9, Reverend Jennifer Ryu hosted the final two of four conversational meetings held to discuss ways phase 1 of the Guernsey Tingle Master Plan for WUU could enhance our programs and ministries. She began Wednesday's meetings by sharing an article from "UU World" about a Minnesota church's expansion, inspired by a longing to connect, with integrity, to the land. The lumber from the (unavoidable) removal of trees on the property was incorporated into the new space. Solar panels and a large permeable parking lot were part of several sustainable choices made by the congregation. (The article is found on page 10, Summer 2014 issue, UU World.) Those attending Wednesday's meetings were asked to imagine what a future article in UU World might say about our WUU expansion. **Included here are comments received at those gatherings.**

## **Imagine the Flow of People and Activity in the Proposed Religious Education Space**

*A beautiful place to play and learn. A spacious area for easy movement of young people and with direct access to playground.*

- Light filled rooms with high ceilings. Each room is twice the size of Fahs' living room. Doors to the outside must have managed access for safety. Rooms and halls that are full of color with interesting things on the walls and lots of books available. Symbols of our religious principles should be reflected.
- An eco-playground with protection from the water feature.
- High tech rooms with Wi-Fi and projection capabilities.
- Appropriately outfitted restrooms for various ages
- Unique identity of this wing as "A Learning Center." Other suggested names: Peace Center, Justice Center, Space for Everyone, All are Welcomed-- a space to tend to the human condition.
- A Welcoming Center in the area would provide a welcome, information and directions for those unfamiliar with the building.

## **Possible Considerations**

- Review the children's worship experience:
  - Ask - How does all this look to the children?
  - Reorganize a bit of the service to make it kid friendly. Shorten the time children spend in the service to ten minutes before they leave for their RE time. Continue sharing the "Story for All Ages."
  - Provide children with routine and consistency in program and staff. Investigate alternative curriculum possibilities. Give them opportunities for outreach beyond WUU.
  - Make sure there is plenty of time for children to socialize in classes.
  - Relocation of the nursery may provide for better flow.
  - Explore the reasons why some children sometimes do not want to go to Fahs house.
- Ask - What will RE look like with the two services?
- Two services may provide time for adult education.

- Add reversible display panels in rooms for multiple use of space
- Consider the space for a pre-school or day care facility.
- Survey the congregation to determine how the two services will best to fit their needs.
- The chapel could be a drama center with a raised platform. This could be more inviting to the public.
- Consider whether the chapel can be used for high school youth.
- Phase I is a compromise: High Schoolers and Middles can have Fahs as their own space. If we raise the money quickly, we can add on the extra rooms in the main building.
- Parents should also have a place to be together, possibly the workroom in the administration area.
- Some administrative personnel need to be in the building every day to welcome and help direct those entering the building.
- Revive "Live Off Five." The greeting hall could provide good seating without associating the activity with "church."

## **Imagine Outreach and Fellowship in the Proposed Space**

*We have something really special and unique that is not just for us. We can become a recognized leader in social justice and become more recognizable to the public.*

- A new building will make it easier to market us and our mission. We, individually, need to bring people in the door. Review better ways to bring people to us (transportation solutions). The yard sale and the auction can be a way to educate people as to who we are.
- A welcome center at the entrance, with rainbow signage to symbolize that all are one. Consider the wall space and be selective in what we post. Exhibit statements which tell who we are. Install drop down bulletin boards for things like committee sign ups. Consider touch screen monitors.
- A separate outside entrance, away from sanctuary/worship entrance, which may be less intimidating to some. Consider moving the reception area to the other end of the administration area. Provide plenty of office space. (Think modern meets colonial.)
- A day care program may be a way to introduce new people to us. Revive "Live Off 5" on Friday nights.
- A place for weddings, retirements, events, and rental income, although some prefer using the space for social justice rather than for private use.
- Parker could house a social justice center but upgrades would be needed. Either Fahs or Parker could be used as a restoration home for assisting people to become self supporting.
- Great publicity is needed to bring people in the door. Investigate the regulations regarding signage on Ironbound Road. Make the (Ironbound Rd. frontage) area an attraction which is very special, very unique.
- The Gathering Hall as a welcoming/hangout area during the week, with coffee available.
- Rental space off campus, in town, for us to be seen where the people are.
- People equipped to go out into community as an external space presence. UU's could be seen as "safe" people, i.e., yellow shirts for "Standing on the Side of Love."
- The homeless shelter would have a shower within the building.
- Reflect our being a Green Sanctuary by getting off the grid--consider a solar hot water tank, solar photovoltaic panels, and geothermal.

## **Possible Considerations**

- A separate, non-profit day care center during the week requires further study. It may not be financially feasible for us. Limits our own use of the building.
- Install a washer/dryer somewhere in the building.
- Offer UU items i.e., T-Shirts, for sale in Gathering Hall.
- The kitchen will need to be wide enough to move around in. Dimensions of the kitchen need to be shared. Coffee bar and kitchen island should be moveable. A gas range with a hood and commercial dishwasher are on the "wish" list
- The books from our library can be disbursed throughout the building for easier access. The conference room could house special collections and provide a quiet space for reading.
- The work room area could be used for assembling materials for various social justice groups. Community groups using the facilities would be provided with locked storage areas. Can we have proper storage above (attics) or store AV systems there?
- Install a generator for the needs of the shelter.
- Determine whether adding visible "green" additions is economically feasible.
- Put careful thought into tree removal. Consider incorporating a ritual before trees are removed.



**Austen Petersen**  
**Our New Religious Education Director**

# BUILDING OUR FUTURE TIMELINE

Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists

## Congregational Meetings: Shown in Blue

\*\*\*Steps beyond Stage 1 are contingent on results of Stage 1\*\*\*

### 2013

#### STAGE 1 EXPLORATION

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June	Board charges Building our Future
July 7	Kickoff Sunday
July-Sept	Visioning Circles
<b>Oct. 20</b>	<b>Congregational Informational Meeting</b>
Oct. 21	Evening Information Session
<b>Nov 17</b>	<b>Congregational Meeting &amp; Vote on proceeding through remainder of Stage 1</b>
Nov	Preparation of architect selection process
Dec	Issuance of Request for Architectural Service Proposals

### 2014

Jan	Receiving of proposals, interview architects, recommend architect to board
Feb	Announcement of Architect Selection
Feb	Initiation of architect/congregant focus meetings
<b>Mar</b>	<b>Congregational Work Session on Building Program</b>
Apr	Master Plan Design Studies
<b>May</b>	<b>Presentation &amp; Review of Master Plan</b>
June-July	Program Opportunity Sessions with congregants
July	Fundraising Feasibility Study & Report
Jul-Aug	Adjustment of Phase 1 scope as needed per above Report <b>WE ARE HERE</b>
Aug	Board development of proposal for adjusted scope for congregational vote
<b>Sept 14</b>	<b>Informational session on final Phase 1 of Master Plan</b>
<b>Sept 21</b>	<b>Congregational Vote on proceeding with Phase 1 of Master Plan</b>

#### STAGE 2 FUNDRAISING

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Oct	Capital Campaign commencement
Nov	Negotiation of Agreement with architect for remainder of design work
Dec	Final Design Phase commencement: Details of design are decided & drawn

### 2015

January	Capital Campaign conclusion
Feb	Adjustment of Phase I scope as needed by Capital Campaign results
Feb	Final Design Documents to Board, then <b>Presentation to Congregation</b>
March	Selection of Building Contractors to bid for construction
April	Bidding for construction
May	Negotiation of construction contract with selected bidder

#### STAGE 3 CONSTRUCTION

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June	Commencement of Construction
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### 2016

April	Building ready for occupancy!
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**IT HAPPENS ONCE A GENERATION OR TWO: AFFIRMING & ENABLING OUR VISION, BUILDING OUR FUTURE**

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