

Refining Our Mission To Ensure a Sustainable Future

Multi-Site Task Force
of the
Board of Trustees

Goals of the MSTF

To determine the will of the congregation regarding our presence in the City:

- Is it an integral part of who we are as a congregation?
- Can we visualize a scenario where this should be part of our mission as a congregation?
- If so, how is that to work?

Our Starting Point

- **What is done is done**
 - We will not try to unravel the threads of the past – motivations, who did/said what, who was right/wrong, etc.
 - We should learn from and be informed by our experiences, but we cannot let them limit our future
- **This community is important to **all** of us**
- **We're in this together**

We Need A Plan

- We are facing a challenge
- We care enough to address it
- We must agree to a plan
- Any plan will take time to implement
 - There is no immediate solution
 - Whatever plan we choose, we will take it step-by-step

We Need Commitment

- We must have patience but not apathy
- We must believe in ourselves
- ***Everyone will need to contribute***
 - How can I play a role?
 - What you have done already
 - Being here today
 - RGL volunteers
 - Worship committee
 - Pledging
 - Common Ground Café & Community Center

What Have Other Churches Done?

- Many churches in the U.S. have more than one site
 - 5 million people worship at 1 of 8,000 multisite churches
- Each multisite arrangement is *unique*
- Having said that, what are some scenarios?

Typical Scenarios

- 1) One church decides to reach out to a geographic area where there are already UUs and establish another site
- 2) Two churches, each with small numbers, decide to share resources
- 3) One church decides to reach out to a particular *population* and establish a congregation
- 4) One church decides to establish an outreach ministry serving a particular *need or community*

UU Examples

- 1) First UU of San Diego established a branch in South Bay
- 2) Pocatello UU Fellowship & Magic Valley UU Fellowship in S. Idaho share minister
- 3) First Unitarian of San Jose reached out to Spanish-speaking community
- 4) First Unitarian of Philadelphia

Our Unique Challenges

- We already have two buildings
- Market Street is in a neighborhood with great needs and challenges
- Safety and parking concerns limit attendance and evening activities
- Neither of our sites really serves as the spiritual home for our whole congregation
- We don't have the finances to support two churches in the current configuration

Creating Community - Inward

➤ What have we done right?

➤ We've created two spiritual homes – with members at each site

➤ Worship

➤ RGL

➤ Music

➤ Lay-led ministries

Creating Community - Outward

➤ We have ongoing programs at both sites

- ✓ Clover Lane
- ✓ Market Street
- ✓ GTS
- ✓ Oliver LaGrone
- ✓ Lay-led ministries

Our Financial Picture

Income

○ Pledging	325,000
▪ CL	147,800
▪ MS	101,400
▪ Both	36,900
▪ Unknown	39,000
○ Fundraising, Plate, Donations	70,000
○ Endowment, Estates (Income)	29,000
○ Reserves/music gift (2015-16)	45,000
○ Rentals	4,000
○ Program	11,000

Our Financial Picture

Expenses

○ HR	348,000
○ Facilities	
○ MS	23,500
○ CL	24,500
○ Mortgage	17,700
○ Administration	28,000
○ Program	7,500
○ Community Outreach	
○ Oliver LaGrone	5,500
○ Plate	10,000

Options Going Forward

What we considered:

- Continuing the way we are
 - “twin” congregations
 - sparring over resources
- Creating two congregations
- Sale of one or both buildings
- Identifying a clear vision for each site that the congregation can embrace

Why Not Continue As We Are?

- Drawing on reserves and not sustainable
- Not enough members to support costs
- Buildings deteriorating
- Can't afford to adequately staff
- Continuing discontent
- Not realizing our potential as a liberal congregation in the Harrisburg area

Why Not Two Congregations?

- Would increase financial hardship for both
- Not clear that both could survive
- There may not be enough members at each site to build self-sustaining congregations
- We still share much in mission and vision
- Loss of members with resulting loss of income
- Would require protracted negotiation of terms of separation

Why Not Sell?

➤ Sale of Market Street

- Loss of spiritual home; loss of mission, identity and members; proceeds likely small and would not pay off mortgage on Clover Lane

➤ Sale of Clover Lane

- Loss of spiritual home; loss of mission, identity and members; proceeds of sale not likely to buy comparable facility

➤ Sale of both locations

- Loss of members; costs of finding new location

What UCH Needs

- A **PLAN** that fits our circumstances
 - Would reflect our core values and principles
 - Would provide options for all members
 - Would build on what we have
 - Would be financially sustainable
 - Would create energy and renewed commitment
 - Would be implemented over a two to three year period

A Feasible Option

**OF THE OPTIONS REVIEWED
ONE STANDS OUT**

**THIS IS OUR
PROPOSAL**

A Community and Interfaith Center Uniquely UU

“UCH is one congregation
with an outreach ministry
in Allison Hill”



Establish a non-profit center
for community services
and interfaith cooperation
at Market Street

Vision for Chalice Center

- We live out our vision by inviting in non-profit entities that share our principles and vision
- The focus will be on faith organizations and community service organizations in Allison Hill
- As UUs we are uniquely qualified to bring these groups together

Vision For Chalice Center

- We seek out rentals sufficient to support building costs and enable self-sustaining ministry
- We provide worship options for UCH and other congregations

What Kinds of Rentals?

- Rentals for one-time events
- Monthly rentals for office space to nonprofits
- Rentals to other congregations that need better space

Is There a Need and How Do We Know?

- We have researched needs
- We have sought opinions of others in the community
- We can more fully operationalize if the congregation decides to move forward

Why Is This a Good Idea?

- Intentional statement of mission by the congregation
- Creates a specific vision to accomplish the mission
- Provides an opportunity to live out our values

WHY?

- Uses our building space to generate income so our resources stretch further
- Flexibility to provide worship and related activities

WHY?

- Provides a feeling of accomplishment
- UCH remains a united community with renewed vision and energy

What Would It Require

- Creation of a Steering Committee
- Development of a business plan with timelines
- Members willing to devote time to make it work
- Exploration of rental potential
- Flexibility in sharing with other faiths
- A transitional period as we plan and implement

Next Steps

- Hearing from you
- Circulation of plan based on feedback
- Town Hall meetings in May
- If we're ready, vote at annual meeting

MSTF

Email

mstf@harrisburguu.org

UCH Website

harrisburguu.org

Lay-led Ministries and Teams

Task Forces