

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Visioning & Strategic Planning Process Updates

Dear South,

Thank you to each of you who have participated in the Visioning and Strategic Planning Process so far. Thank you for showing up in person or on Zoom, sharing your ideas and concerns, asking questions and voting.

We have had robust participation in the process, with 54 of you sharing your perspectives in the first Information Gathering Session which led us to emerging our top Mission Priorities.

Our Mission Priorities are:

- Well-Being
- Building Spiritual Community
- Arts & Culture

With a commitment to *What is the Church Now? A New Creation* in all of our Mission Priority areas. These Mission Priorities provide *clear guidance* for our strategic planning process.

Through the voting process, with the ballots that 28 of you completed, what we saw clearly is this:

- **South desires for its building at 45 Maple Street, to be a vibrant Community Center!**
 - **Well-Being, Spiritual Community and Arts & Culture all inform the kind of Community Center we want to be.**

Jill White, the facilitator of the Visioning process, noted that this clarity of vision is unusual in the churches she works with and is exciting.

We extend a special thanks to Silvio Vasquez and Nancy Montagna for providing lunch, coffee and dessert for us for each session, and for Al Jack for getting the food for our Sunday March 12th session!

What Are The Next Steps?

1. **Celebrating the Vision we have emerged:** 45 Maple Street as a vibrant community center ministering to the well-being of the community in many ways and especially through arts & culture and building spiritual community.

2. Forming a Strategic Planning Task Force

- The Strategic Planning Task force will be tasked with moving the vision into more detail: doing community research to elaborate the specifics of our vision, assessing the material and financial infrastructure that will be needed and more.
- The Strategic Planning Task force will then *write* the Strategic Plan so that we as a whole congregation can make decisions and enact our vision.
- Jill White will work alongside our Strategic Planning Task force.
- The Strategic Planning Task force will be 3-5 people, with the support of the Pastor. South's Viability Task force which has carried us through this Visioning Process will comprise three members of this group. *We are looking for potentially 1 or 2 additional members.*
 - Attributes of Task Force members include:
 - Ability to dream and think outside the box
 - Regular worship attender
 - Knows church members
 - Well-respected by the congregation
 - Affable and with a sense of humor
 - Ability to work with others; team player
 - Please be assured that even if you are not on the Strategic Planning Task force, you are still very much a part of the process and there will be opportunities for you to contribute in specific and meaningful ways as we work to live into the future.

3. Partners in Vision

- Jill White is writing a report of our process and vision which she will share with us and to connect us to the next stages for the [Partners in Vision program](#) with the UCC Church Building & Loan fund. The Partners in Vision program is designed to help churches discern vision plans and to create master plans that lead to sustainable, innovative, mission-focused development models.

In Hope in the Spirit,
Your Viability Working Group

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Bill Conley
Linda O'Connell
Rev. Lindsey Peterson