

## Facilities Task Force Update – January 2024

The Facilities Task Force (FTF) met three times during the month of January. The principal focus of our meetings was to identify potential scenarios for addressing our space needs going forward, and then to develop a common data collection framework that could be completed for all of those scenarios.

We brainstormed more than a dozen possible scenarios – half of them related to remaining at our home building at 625 College Avenue and the other half considering options outside of our building. As part of the data collection process, we are committed to including both the opinions and feeling of our congregation as well as objective data related to cost, logistics, and the like.

There are two principal avenues for gathering congregants' input. The first was implemented in January when the congregation was invited to participate in an online survey. While it was somewhat similar to one done in 2021, this one was conducted as we are currently displaced from our own building and using shared space at First Presbyterian. There were 106 responses to the survey. Aside from the structured questions, there was space to add additional comments. The survey results and a summary of the comments are included on the OBUUC web site under the Finding Our Way Home tab. Please note that all of the comments have been acknowledged, but that they have been summarized in order to have them remain confidential.

The second opportunity for gathering congregants' input is coming in March. The FTF will be conducting "cottage meetings" – small, moderated, in-person meetings to further solicit opinions, ideas and concerns from the congregation. This information, too, will be added to the data collection framework as the FTF continues its work. More information about when, where and signing up for these meetings will be forthcoming in mid-February.

With respect to the type of objective data that the FTF is collecting, the following are some of the major data points that the FTF is collecting for each scenario:

- Space available (square footage available for worship, administration, religious education, social interaction, storage)
- Parking availability
- Location within the community/proximity to most OBUUC members
- Cost breakdown and total
- Long term financial implications
- Potential timeline
- Impact on congregational growth/shrinkage
- Impact on worship
- Impact on religious education program
- Impact on administration
- Impact on church programs (e.g., social action, food pantry, etc)
- Potential positive aspects of this option
- Potential negative aspects of this option

Furthermore, if anyone in the congregation would like to provide additional input to the FTF, we have implemented a dedicated email address to which you may direct your comments:

[facilities@obuuc.org](mailto:facilities@obuuc.org)

Stay tuned for updates and meet the FTF members on the OBUUC website under the tab *Finding Our Way Home*. Updates will also be provided with Sunday Service announcements, the weekly *Unifier* emails, Zoom coffee hours and the regular “Notes from the Board” emails.

Jeff Siuta  
For the Facilities Task Force