

Facilities Task Force Update – November 2023

The Facilities Task Force (FTF) – charged by the OBUUC Board of Trustees with furthering our congregation's process of Finding Our Way Home – has met in October and earlier this month to begin our work.

Our first meeting was primarily organizational; our second began the task of addressing the process of gathering and communicating information. We are in the very early stages of this work, and we will be communicating regularly with the Board and the congregation regarding our process and progress.

It is important to reiterate that our task is *not* to decide what the future OBUUC facility will be. Rather, it *is* our task to gather information about the options available – both with our current building and with alternative locations – including a variety of factors such as capacity, accessibility, flexibility, cost and funding, space usage, projected congregation growth, etc.

Our process for gathering the necessary information includes:

- Brainstorming a wide range of possible ways to address OBUUC's space needs both on an immediate basis and going forward into the future;
- Having subgroups of the FTF perform deep dives into each of the possible facility solutions and addressing the factors mentioned above;
- Inviting persons in the congregation with particular expertise to be resources for the FTF subgroups studying particular issues;
- Following up on the 2021 congregational needs survey with a new survey seeking input particularly in light of our recent difficulties with our own building and the solutions that have been implemented to date (e.g., sharing space with First Pres, Bradford, etc.);
- Conducting cottage meetings (small group discussions) to assess and address space needs;
- Other information-gathering avenues, as needed.

All of the information that is gathered will be compiled, organized and communicated to the Board and the congregation. Our hope is that we can provide a comprehensive look at OBUUC's options for the future, and that the congregation will be able to choose a path forward at a Special Congregational Meeting in the first half of 2024.

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.

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For the Facilities Task Force