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Cascade Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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New Building Task Force **Minutes for July 2024**

Date: July 26, 2024

Attendees: Steve Clem, Emily Siroky, Leslie Marshall, LeRoy Farmer and Jerry Baillie (Scribe)

Initially, we had a general discussion about the meeting with Trinity Methodist representatives. Remarks were generally optimistic, with some reservations. Leslie pointed out that we have raised a substantial amount of funds, and if we entered into a lease agreement, would we still need these funds? This led to whether the congregation would settle for leasing rather than owning a facility. LeRoy then pointed out that the highway construction timeline, as has been presented to us, may not allow us to construct a new building before our current building's condemnation. So, leasing may be our best near-term option. Emily thought we would keep these funds as an endowment towards a future facility. Steve pointed out that those who donated may not want to deal with any tax implications if the funds were returned.

We are unaware of any existing facility (or parcel of land) that could be repurposed to meet our needs. We will continue to seek input from all.

Steve replayed a walk-through video of the Trinity facility, and it appears to generally meet our needs. Upgrades to the wiring for audio, video, internet, and security cameras would be required. Steve reminded us that the DOT has offered some funding to update/remodel any facility we find, up to possibly \$50K. It is located at the corner of 8th St NE and N. Iowa St. in East Wenatchee.

We are planning to proceed along two paths: **First**, a lease at Trinity, and **second**, acquiring a new facility, for which we need more funding. The new facility could be an existing building or a new building at either our existing site or a new site.

Steve was instructed by PMW UMC District Rev. Daniel Miranda (Trinity Rep) to wait a couple of weeks before contacting Rev. Debby Sperry, who is a minister at the Methodist Church (FUMC) in Wenatchee. This contact would be to discuss how our congregation could mesh with their desired uses for the building, such as how many dedicated rooms vs. simply shared rooms with locking storage, which days of the week, etc.

We have decided to suspend our request to the Board (which has yet to be requested) to fund a commercial real estate agent who would report on existing facilities and land. This would have been an hourly rate in place of a regular commission.

The committee will present after the Sunday service on September 22, 2024. The goal of this presentation is to enlighten the congregation about the funding shortfall for any new facility and update folks on the DOT's plans and timeline. We will also update them on our talks for leasing the Trinity Facility.

Finally, we shall survey the congregation to help determine the Task Force's direction.

The team was distracted by reminiscing about several past configurations of the current building and Grace's proposed 22,000 sq. ft—facility on Sunnyslope.

Finally, the question was asked: What are growing congregations doing differently than traditional ones that are shrinking? The initial answer was audio/visual presentation rather than simply oration from a pulpit—free coffee and such well before service was also mentioned. Steve pointed out one church was making specialized lattes on the steps of the sanctuary!

Our next meeting is to be Friday, August 23rd, at 11 a.m. It is hoped that this will occur after Steve has had a chance to talk directly with the minister at the existing Methodist Church so he can relay the details of the meeting.