



VISION PROJECT GROUP UPDATES ~ February 3, 2023

Building Projects & Renovation Team: The Building Projects and Renovations Team has been meeting since August. We started our work by simply familiarizing ourselves with the array of sub-proposals in our purview, and exploring any related plans that have been proposed prior to the visioning process that could be applicable to the current proposals. From there, we have had discussions with various church stakeholders, created efficiencies between proposals, explored new space design plan sketches, and are now about to finalize our research and move to a prioritization phase that maps this group of proposals to an effort/impact matrix, which will hopefully aid the congregation and the vision team in weighing prioritization and feasibility.

Partnering/Outreach Team: The Partnering/Outreach Team got underway in late October. We have completed preliminary exploration of the many initiatives. We are now considering which ones can be started in the near future and those which will require more work and planning before action can be taken. Examples of near-term initiatives are contributing \$25,000 over three years to the UCC Hope Fund and increasing our involvement in Vermont Interfaith Action which promotes social, racial, and economic justice. We continue to explore some other initiatives, including establishing a street ministry, improving quality housing opportunities, and partnerships with, and/or monetary support for black and indigenous communities.

Environmental Assessment Team: The Environmental Assessment Team has met with local utilities to understand assessment opportunities, reviewed prior related scopes and quotations, begun laying out a church spaces assessment process akin to that of the real estate industry, and brainstormed a variety of areas to investigate for the climate justice portion of our proposal. Administrative support is desperately needed now within this team and includes identifying meeting days/times, scheduling and hosting team zoom calls, documenting meeting minutes from these meetings, and pulling in content from our efforts throughout the fall into our proposal due on March 1st. With a strong integrator's support, this team could potentially do much of this work independently and not require much meeting time to meet its goals! Additional support to further develop and investigate the many ideas this team has generated is also needed to improve both the quality and quantity of content that we are able to include in the proposal. As this team's scope also overlaps with and enables the work of other teams, additional energy is also needed to collaborate with other teams as we all finalize our proposals.

Child Care Team: The Child Care Team received 6 proposals from church members, all with the goal of establishing a professional child care program at First Church. We have interviewed several Burlington area Child Care providers, and received very positive feedback regarding the use of our building. State licensing authorities and the Fire Marshal have also given preliminary approval. We have weighed the pros and cons of different spaces within the church, and have received preliminary estimates for the cost to retrofit those spaces. Representatives of the City of Burlington Early Learning Initiative and Let's Grow Kids (administering State of Vermont Funds) have provided estimates of grant funding available for such a program. By March 1, we will have a

recommendation as to the population we would like to serve, where the program would be located within the church, and the costs to the church to set up and run such a program.

Educational Hub Team: We were assigned 13 preliminary proposals. Several fall into a category of "Affinity Groups" such as cancer support or covenant groups for spiritual growth. Others fit a category of gatherings to focus on specific issues of community concern such as economic security or support for new Americans. One calls for researching a new church history with attention to our indigenous neighbors, eugenics, slavery and abolition. Two items call for use of space for music education and performances. To date we have considered each item and are working on a final proposal to be presented by March 1.