

# Our Facilities -- Our Future

2010-11 TJMCUU Facilities Planning Task Force

## Executive Summary

What follows is the culmination of several years' work by a number of teams charged with addressing the needs of our facilities – some of which have now become urgent. In the past, reports have met with inaction for a variety of reasons, and so this seeks to build on the learning of these earlier efforts. Our report does not contain any final recommendations. They are for the congregation to decide, but neither is it presented in a vacuum, divorced from the mission or purpose of the church. We firmly believe that our facilities are but one part of the whole that must fit together to support the mission of the church, its ministry, its programming needs and the needs of our staff and governing body. As such it is but part of a comprehensive long range planning process. In addition to the facilities team, another group has been tasked with reviewing our organization and staffing needs. Others have been reviewing our governance structure and still more have been working on aspects of our programming and ministry needs. A relatively new, but equally important feature of this long range planning process has been the work of our Green Sanctuary Task Force, some of whose work has been incorporated into this report.

In addition to looking at prior facilities plans we also reviewed an earlier long range plan which was started in 2000 and presented in 2003. The report covered all aspects of the church, and we were amazed at the accuracy of its projections for how we would look in 2011–12 in terms of membership size, staffing, programming and funding needs, and of course, the facilities needed to support these findings. It was in fact an early look into our future. While some things have changed, it was comforting to read how much has remained the same.

Different from earlier versions, our report includes a Vision for TJMCUU which, although describing only one possible scenario, helps paint a picture of what our Church could become and the important role facilities play in the making of a vision.

Second, the report establishes a number of key assumptions which help simplify the options and enable the reader to focus on the core issues.

Third, the key findings have been organized into easy-to-follow time segments ranging from immediate to long-term needs and which help prioritize the issues and separate the “must dos” from the “like to dos.” It is these longer term, “like to dos” that require the greatest feedback and should reflect the congregation’s desires for the future direction and shape of our church

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facilities. This report addresses many desires, including those for religious education, social activities, meeting rooms, staff offices and more.

Fourth, and unlike earlier reports, the team believes it has presented realistic solutions to these longer term desires. Specifically, the report provides for a set of optional building solutions that breaks the work into more financially manageable pieces. The projects being considered are also significantly less costly than the multi-million-dollar programs presented in the past.

Finally, we have included a section that addresses how the work could be financed, including a review of our current financial status and a brief description of the various funding options available. When viewed together these elements lead the team to believe that the projects are viable.

Though this report is based on extensive study, the team recognizes the critical importance of congregational support for any long term facilities plan, and as such we will only move to recommendations after a full and comprehensive review process has been completed.

While we seek feedback on all aspects of the report, the primary focus should be on Section 4.0 "Questions for the Congregation" which asks for your input on the most critical areas. These questions can be summarized as "expand, renovate, build, sell, demolish" and asks that you provide input on which of these you support and your ideas for how best to proceed.