

Building Renewal Report

As part of the Annual General Meeting on June 14, 2009, the congregation met to celebrate the programs, activities and learnings on offer at Dunbar Heights United Church. Under the able leadership of Chris Epting, we walked into the gym to find a mysterious matrix of 8 x 11 sheets of paper stuck to the floor with names like “Disciple Bible Study” “Nursery” “Garden” “Aurora Group” “Finance Committee” and “Sunday Worship.”

People were invited to write their names on a sticky note, place it to the floor outside the matrix and from their names, draw out colourful strings of wool to the programs or activities to which they were connected. In no time, a colourful spider web of connections was made, bringing home to all of us, not only how and where we meet in activities but all the cross-over in the places between the programs.



The question was then asked, if this is all the activity that is happening in the building, is the building serving us well? People were invited to dream about what improvements they would like to see to the building. People called out:

- make the memorial lounge (library) look inviting and tidy
- repaint the interior halls in a welcoming, modern, warm colour
- restore the badminton courts (painted on the gym floor) by replacing the necessary equipment: support poles, nets, racquets and shuttlecocks
- renovate the men’s washroom
- repaint the building exterior to prevent rot to the windowsills
- wash the walls or repaint the sanctuary (get out the TSP)
- re the Christian Education wing: imagine the flow of the space to pull people in and invite them to stay
- install an elevator
- new doors, notice board and banner to invite, welcome and announce
- install an elastic arm to grab people and bring them through the door
- refit the kitchen – new cabinets, industrial dishwasher
- totally renovate the kitchen
- create a space for the youth to gather

Further, similar comments were written down (see chart following).

The congregation passed the following resolution:

Move that this meeting recommend to Council the appointment of a one-year long '*Building Renewal Committee*' to:

- consult regularly with the congregation on its current and future needs, programming and other activities as they relate to the building and its amenities; and
- provide concrete proposals to Council for consideration.

Background:

The purpose of the '*Building Renewal Committee*' would be to draft a building renewal vision, based on DHUC's current and future missions, programs, activities and community needs, for the upgrade, modification and enhancement of the church buildings and amenities. This work is the necessary preparatory stage to a planned capital campaign to realize the vision.

Skills:

Those on the committee would be broadly representative of the congregation and committed to enhancing the life and work of the congregation and its programs.

Key skills include the ability to:

- appreciate the life of the whole congregation
- assess the needs of a diverse community in a collaborative way,
- present ideas for discussion and modification
- assess costs realistically
- make recommendations on the phased implementation of improvements.

Council met on June 22, 2009 and considered the motion. Council is enthusiastic to strike such a committee to begin the work of visioning for building renewal. It also agreed more work needed to be done on the mandate for the committee and recognized that realistically the time frame for the committee to accomplish its work may well take more than one year. Council's work on the mandate and appointment to the Building Renewal Committee will continue in the fall.

The question to members of the congregation is this: Are you passionate about creating a vision of an improved building? Do you see yourself with the skill set identified in the motion passed? What gifts would you bring to this committee?

Look for more on the process of application for membership in the Building Renewal Committee come fall.

Space	Request for Update
Kitchen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - check wiring throughout to accommodate new stoves (1 does not work) - used by every user group for every meeting or event. Cannot now be used to prepare meals for 1st United - needs 1 commercial dishwasher, 2 fridges, 2 new stoves, paint - wonderful if it could be completely gutted - central to all activities
Memorial Lounge/ Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clean up - needs paint, new carpet, furniture - many meetings, huge potential once renewed
2 nd Floor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - total re-planning on 2nd floor to make better use of space for groups - we have space but no room
Inside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - painting – bright, clean, modern (for all user groups)
Outside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - for the benefit of the neighbourhood, we need to look more professional and welcoming. - Paintwork on all windows is urgently required as it has flaked off to the wood - Clean all sanctuary windows
Doors/Signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do people who use the education building know where the sanctuary is – or care – Let’s invite them in with open doors and signs - The sign suggests low grade performance – “why bother” – let’s make it crisp, clean, modern. - new signage at 24th & Collingwood and at 24th & Dunbar
Entrance to Sanctuary and CE building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - more windows, fewer walls, glass doors, open seating area - exterior welcoming – sign, glass doors, improve the concrete
Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Required in various places in the building
Youth Lounge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth need a gathering place
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make it all more accessible, automatic opening doors, better ramping, elevator