

Way Forward

AUGUST 8, 2021, R4

A Summary of the MIT Input Summary and GB Conclusions was reviewed and edited. We are confident you will appreciate the results that will guide us into the future.

1. Continue Religious Education:

- a.** Our Basis for the future is being a church delivering God's Word serving existing congregation and collaborating with our "elder" population. Invite the community to our Sunday service, our bible studies (Women at the Well, etc.), and continue virtual services.
- b.** Stay Christ-Centered! Continue with the best possible Christian worship services for our attendees and virtual congregants.
- c.** Continue the Sunday service at 9:30 am year-round. Holding 2 church services doesn't seem wise or productive. Continue with one service at 9:30 on Sundays, perhaps with communion every Sunday, alternating between Chapel and Sanctuary, except for religious holidays, which will take place in the Sanctuary. We need to maintain the comfort of the members who continue to participate in our unified service.

2. GPC Building Status:

- a.** Open our building for community meeting/support when reasonable, prudent, and supportable.
- b.** Consider opening the church to outside users who request a return. Evaluate each request within the context of safety for all, for a fair market rental price.
- c.** Continue our Hunger Action activities, such as Mustard Seed, Worcester Fellowship, OCC Student Dinners, and Food Pantry, if we have the volunteers and funds to support them.
- d.** Be aware we may not have enough volunteers to resume all activities given our dwindling congregation, evidenced in the past 5-7 years, and comprised of aging members with limitations.

3. Communications Efforts:

- a. Continue sending out the newsletter via email and making the Newsletter and other important information available to those members without email who request the hardcopy.
- b. Continue our Social Media Outreach with our Virtual Church Service.
- c. Continue the Social Media (SM) Focus Group Team led by Russ Vickstrom to work with Carolina Mata to support the church and our groups on various SM platforms, such as Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram.
- d. The Next Generation Y & Z will come to church when they are individually inspired. We will welcome them when they do.

4. Finances and Facilities:

- a. The lack of attendees/census, high maintenance costs, and reduced giving levels have led to a lack of revenue and drawdown of investment funds.
- b. There needs to be a clear assessment by the Finance Team of how long the current finite amount in the investment fund will last given the continued drawdown of the account.
- c. The evaluation and cost-effectiveness of the church building and properties requires leadership review with congregational input to support paramount decisions.

This joint statement of **The Way Forward** will be presented for congregational consensus regarding the Sunday services, the Finance Team's assessment of fiscal resources, review the Property Management Task Force (PMTF) determinations regarding all assets, and to continue existing programming as long as economically feasible and staffed, and be who we are while supporting the community as best we can.

Blessings and Peace,

Dennis Christo

Chair, Governing Board.