

Summary of the Young Family Discussion on Saturday, December 3, 2022

If we could bottle the enthusiasm of the people present at Saturday morning's discussion, we would have the cost of our project covered! I left the gathering without any worries that the *Beyond Ourselves* portion of our goal is covered. After this wonderful gathering, I know our church is and will be in good hands long into the future.

Here is my summary of the discussion:

- After everyone introduced themselves with name, length of membership and which children were theirs (there were 15 kids in childcare that morning!) I gave a short summary of what has been done and what was coming up on Jan 22 and then we just chatted and I responded to specific questions.
- While knowing that due diligence was and is needed, this group wants to get going; impatient in this hurry-up and wait scenario.
- Lots of positive suggestions as to what would be beneficial:
 - Suffice parking with easy and safe access to the building when walking with small children and specifically not having to lug car seat / child carriers up a long set of stairs
 - An easily navigated space within the building
 - Eco Friendly, possibly geo-thermal and making choices that reflect good stewardship of land and environment
 - Windows
 - Playground that is safe, accessible and within easy viewing
 - Walking trails
 - Interior and exterior space that allows us to be together and easily flow from inside to outside, even in chilly weather
 - Space for us to live our values and work with community partners such as Village Farm
 - Incorporate the minimalism that the current building offers
- Several had visited the NE property and encouraged others to do so - a great winter's day walk
- With regards to costs: Several stated that it was most practical to sell the current building and accept the gift property. There were no hesitations about how much and one couple even said they were ready to sign a capital campaign pledge right now!

As we reached the end of our time together, Rev. Luke had everyone offer their thoughts. To a person, they are ready to "Go". There were some wise words of caution including a reminder that even with a new facility all will not be perfect and that we must be mindful that everyone will feel the effects of any change and we will need to be mindful of our decisions so that we capture the spirit of what we have today.

My biggest take-away - a real light bulb above my head moment - is that I have been thinking of these younger members as NEW but I must shift my picture. Four of these individuals grew up in this church, so while they may be younger than me their affiliation and participation exceeds my 20 years. Several have been members for 10-12 years, so there is ongoing involvement and engagement. And, yes, several are very new having just signed The Book, but their enthusiasm is genuine.

They are ready to vote. They are ready to work. They are ready to give their dollars.

Ann Hutton, Member of the Building Our Future-Beyond Ourselves Team