

Highlands United Church Legacy Project Update 3

Selecting Options

We have entered Stage 3 of our Legacy Project and, based on the survey results and financial review, are now focusing on potential viable options, to be verified with Community of Faith this month.

- Community of Faith – this project was started when our average weekly worship attendance was 20 people. In the past year, we have seen our average attendance nearly double and other evidence of increased commitment. The preferred option is to pursue re-energizing the community of faith rather than looking at closure.
- Church Building – the Community of Faith cannot maintain ownership and responsibility of the church, so options involving that are not viable. We could pursue sale of the church but that does not support our Community of Faith or the legacy we wish to create in the community. We have initiated discussions with the Highlands Community League and the United Church Property Commission about possible options that serve both the Community of Faith and the Community.
- Manse – we are pursuing the sale of the manse.

Survey results

The Legacy survey was completed. Here are some highlights.

- 100 respondents, 53 from Community of Faith and 47 from the neighbourhood
- Nearly three-quarters of Community of Faith respondents were aged 65 or over, about 15% were aged 25 to 54
- Nearly two-thirds of Neighbourhood respondents were aged 25 to 54, only 20% were 65 or older
- The majority of respondents preferred a community hub as a future use for the church building, slightly more from the Neighbourhood
- The Community of Faith's most preferred uses within a Community Hub included: community programs, meeting spaces for the community, writing and literary groups and other communities of faith
- The Neighbourhood's most preferred uses within a Community Hub included: community programs, music groups/instruction/concerts, meeting spaces for the community and commercial kitchen users

Financial Review summary

- The Community of Faith's revenues have not covered expenses for the past eight years.
- The church building has significantly higher expenses than the direct income from rentals.
- The manse is currently being used to support an outreach program related to transitional housing, and revenues and expenses are balanced.

Legacy Project Update

Stage 3 – Identifying Options

What we have completed this past few months:

- Completed survey
- Completed financial review
- Shared information with Community of Faith
- Completed appraisals of buildings
- Identified and selected potential viable options

What we are working on:

- Congregational meeting for direction on options for buildings
- Initiating steps to sell the manse
- Discussions with Highlands Community League about potential church use and/or partnership opportunities
- Discussions with United Church Property Commission regarding requirements related to sale and/or transition of our buildings

Legacy Team Members

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Legacy Project

- ① Taking a Legacy Path ✓
- ② Information Gathering ✓
- ③ Selecting Options ★
- ④ Establishing a Legacy Path