



Unitarian Church of Montpelier Physical Space Needs

presented by the Growth & Facilities Task Force • Feb. 2018

A modest, continued growth trend has been happening at UCM, and it is important to make plans to support this growth ... For the overall health of the congregation, the Board feels that it is wise to plan for modest continued growth at this time.

(UCM Growth & Trajectory Study, p.10, June 2017)

Do we really have Long Range Physical Space needs?

- ⊕ **Attendance at Sunday services** has grown, nearly filling the sanctuary and prompting the experiment with two services each Sunday during January.
- ⊕ **Other uses of church space** are increasing steadily. The UCM calendar for February 2018 shows 1 to 6 different events scheduled at the church every day. Church related meetings and activities and many community group meetings use the sanctuary, vestry, and other spaces in the church.
- ⊕ **Concerts, performances, and presentations** often fill the sanctuary or the vestry to capacity.
- ⊕ Every Monday, 100 to 150 community members attend the **Community Lunch** in the vestry (30 volunteers prepare, cook, serve, set up, wash dishes, and clean up).
- ⊕ **Clarke Lectures** and **Canvass Kickoff** dinners plus other church events attract many UCM members and supporters who fill the Fireplace Room and vestry and make use of the kitchen.
- ⊕ After services, it is often difficult to find a place for **quiet conversation**.
- ⊕ The **current elevator** is entirely inadequate for providing efficient and complete access to the sanctuary and 2nd floor.

Why do we have to deal with this now?

- ⊕ UCM is experiencing **significant growth** and it is important to make plans to support this growth.
- ⊕ We will need **professional help** to analyze and prioritize a list of space needs and develop a masterplan with options for how to meet long term space needs in the next 2 to 3 years
- ⊕ It is important to start looking at **costs and funding** for an architect or engineer, as well as a **capital campaign** to finance the changes within the church floor plan or construction of a new addition.

Since October, 2017, the Growth & Facilities Task Force has gathered input about long-range physical space needs as well as ideas for possible changes and improvements. This input by church members and staff can be broken down to the following list of improvements which are needed now and into the future.

**Growth &
Facilities
Preliminary
List of
Space Needs**

Phase One: Space Needs within church building's current footprint

1. **School Street entrance and 1st floor traffic flow.** Create a welcoming and safe entry way; redesign the general traffic flow pattern; eliminate major traffic through the kitchen work area and the RE classroom.
2. **Kitchen.** Redesign the kitchen to meet Vermont Health and Safety requirements and accommodate meal preparation and serving for large groups eating in the vestry.
3. **Accessibility to the 2nd floor.** Plan and designate space for new elevator to achieve accessibility on 2nd floor; add 2nd floor accessible bathroom.
4. **Progress toward NetZero Energy Usage.** Reduce and ultimately eliminate fossil fuels from the UCM energy mix; design and convert heating system to advanced wood pellet system; design and construct solar photovoltaic system.
5. **Basement.** Renovate and upgrade areas in the basement to increase usable space as feasible.

Phase Two: Space Needs requiring construction outside the building's current footprint

6. **Design and construct new addition** on north side of building (extending 1980 addition). Create new and larger office spaces, spaces for children and adult learning, play and activity spaces, rooms for a library and archival materials, small spaces for conversation, and more storage space.

Standards, Values, Criteria for evaluating space needs

- UCM mission driven
- Enhanced safety and security
- Greater accessibility
- Respect for the historic nature of the building

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