

Walker: First “Dreaming” Meeting Notes

Things We’ll Miss

Acoustics (mentioned several times)
Stage (mentioned several times)
Woodwork/roundness/balcony
History
Meditation room/space
Not a lot of furniture that needed to be moved from the stage
Great Hall
Elevator
Outside rocks & picnic table
Location
Pews/circled pews
Windows/stained glass windows (mentioned several times)
Gold wall
Piano (mentioned several times)
Rummage sales
Will not miss Walker basement (allergies)
Piano/Miss Kelly’s & time
Rehearsal
Open space H/W [height/width?]
Squeaky floors
Large sanctuary
Quaintness
Orin – neighbor will be missed
Banners
Mural
No church feeling there – no sacred space
All the groups – events, classes, plays, fundraisers, weddings, funerals, baptisms
Age of building - appreciated

Things We Want

Start small, build on
Collage – past & present
Colorful walls; murals; banners
Eco-friendly
“Cool kitchen”
Dishwasher (mentioned several times)
Professional dishwasher – 180 degrees
Ovens (convection or that work)
Garden on top of the roof
Plants & flowers outside the building
Good acoustics (mentioned several times)
Put chairs in a circle, a stage if we want – move the chairs around

Natural light
Skylights
Wood
Circular mtg place
Commission artists
Still a meeting place for social justice
More than one room for the kids
Nursery
Open, flexible space, yet with space for children
Kids game room: ping-pong, foosball, X-box connect, multi-media
Better flow from floor to floor
Domes: meditation dome, kids dome, sauna dome, office dome, kitchen dome, human compost/toilet dome
Sauna
Mudroom
Multi-culti side “chapel” for contemplation
Must feel like sacred space
Partner w/like-minded organizations – Powderhorn youth farm, urban farming
Chicken coop, herb garden
Rooftop garden
Green/LED certification
Green/energy-efficient features: geothermal, solar panels, etc.
Allergy-free building
Someplace where we can hear when we talk & eat
No stairs
Flexible space for variety of sizes of groups – offices, classes
Good space for the things we love to do: kitchen, day care, neighborhood groups (rental space)
Strong presence of the community - using our space
Room for nonprofits – continue being welcoming space, particularly outside/disenfranchised
(gay rights, Pagan, Wiccan, non-violent)
Abortion clinic – save this right
Assisted living, hospice, independent apartments on site or next door
Hope not to tear down homes for parking
Components:
 Office
 Kitchen – state of the art
 Recreation/Centennial: music/fiesta, pool table, basketball
Accessible – ramp, not elevator
Rebuilding on the footprint, function, green, beautiful space
Elevator may need to be part of the building as we age
Garden incorporated (on the roof?)
Energy neutral/it makes as much energy as it needs
Theatrical lighting system
Versatile high-quality sound system
Lots of irregular angles & surfaces
Stained glass – traditional

Sprinkler system (mentioned more than once)
Office space for staff: connected offices; private for minister
Office Manager has windows to see who is entering & existing
Open space H/W [height/width?]
Open computer work stations
Space for children's after-school programs
Space for kids of all ages
Actual Sunday school rooms – maybe homework center during the week
Communal lounge
Central kiosk (terminal)
Garden – community (define – purpose – expand)
Craft camps (pottery, puppets, potters' wheel, kiln)
Equipment room
Theater/dance
Poetry camps, storytelling camps, music camps
Acoustic room
Minimize our physical footprint to free us to provide services to people
Elevators to replace rickety narrow stairs
Ramps
Architecturally, visibly arresting, like no one has seen or would expect
Incorporate the rainbow right into the building
Greenest of green principles, obviously
Lots of modular, multipurpose space
Art studio
Dance/exercise studio
Incredible kitchen, maybe a coffee bar
Sanctuary that looks like a theatre (w/green room)
No parking – cars are on the way out anyway
Hosting radical groups
Providing space to the community (a value?) – was a community building – part of the mission
Sense of serenity (or calm)
Awesome flooring – durable, quality
Open space for kids
Natural air & light (i.e., opening windows)
Like pews because like sitting next to each other
I like the versatility of the stage which I would like to keep and possibly expand in terms of a
back stage or side stage
I like the circular pews concept and would like to see seating expanded some, but not a whole lot
We should think of better entrance and exits, better access of basement to side yard, better kitchen.
I think the garden area could be set so that it's accessible from the church and somewhat flexible to be
used for gathering
Plan on having space for the needs of children
Visit some other churches
Visit All Nation's Church and St. Paul's Church at 25th and Chicago

Other Thoughts

- Dream BIG
- Don't want to borrow to build
- Rebuild in same location
- If rebuild, stay in similar area of south Mpls
- Within one or 1.5 miles
- Stay in our neighborhood – that corner. We're key to this neighborhood
- Moving in w/another UM church would not meet our needs – although L.S. has good dining & kitchen
- No to renting for permanent space
- No mortgage
- Connect w/communities that have supported us through this: Latino group, health clinic nearby, Trinity Lutheran
- Create a collective community to build for the future. Model (as we have) how to build community
- Renovate: we should carefully investigate existing empty churches. If they have good acoustics for music, many small office spaces for organizations to rent, Sunday school space etc., we should buy & renovate & pocket the remaining money and create an endowment. Rebuild is not a good idea.
- Definitely not rebuild! I would find another place that we could renovate.
- Don't think we should stay in the landlord business unless it is profitable (revenue > expenses) over the very long term
- Rent: use \$ for social justice/more cushion – energy go to initiative instead of building
- The Occupy movement, the Arab Spring, the worldwide movement of the 99%.... these are not going away. This kind of dynamic street politics is dynamically changing our world. We need to get on that train, that is the trajectory of history. So, how can we support that movement and get involved with it. I have and it's tremendously enlivening and hopeful & exhilarating.
- What do we want to do to save lives? Has been petri dish for organizations. Social change (does not mean social service). Right now, same-sex marriage amendment. Listen to each other, our neighbors – listen. Listen. Core. Diverse community.
- Rebuild
- Attracting people to community, location
- Collaborate with others that want similar social justice goals
- Rebuild – or in other words, build
- We don't find our mission; our mission finds us.
- The community needs us to be “there” – not necessarily 31st and 16th but near for non-Walker community.
- In (1987?) I did a “grand experiment” – vacation Bible school! It was great fun, a great success, but somehow it didn't continue, it was just that once. I'm just saying....
- The diverse age & race wider community, the neighborhood, had their own Walker – the community meals, the rummage sale, all these extracurricular institutions. Better to honor & build on these than to obsess about the “whiteness” of Sunday morning or try to fix it.
- Use original site – familiar, proximity, history

- The 4th “R”: Resist the temptation to do anything, to build anything, to buy anything. The work is in the streets. I love being a part of a church that celebrates in the park, at Pride, in a puppet theatre. The present moment could be our future. This church is “still on fire.” We can do a community meal in the streets and we have. Who needs a stinkin’ building? It costs money to maintain, to keep up with, to staff. Our mission or to build a caring community, nurture spirituality, and work courageously for peace with justice. The challenge might be to do all of that online. We want to be younger maybe that’s our future. We know that real community, spirituality and peace are not found in front of a screen. That’s an illusion. But we’re living in a world that [not sure what the next word is] with an image not necessarily with brick and mortar. We’ve done more outreach since the building burned than in the last ½ year. We’re still on fire.