

Design Charrette Report to Session

Eternal God, we know that no building can contain you.

May First Presbyterian Church use our facility as a gathering place for people of goodwill and in respectful relationship with all creation.

When we worship, let us worship faithfully.

When we study, let us learn your ways of love and justice.

*May every meeting held here honor you and bless our neighbors,
so that this building may stand as a sign of your Spirit's work in the world,
and as a witness to Jesus' presence among us. Amen.*

Purpose of facility – To use this building for ministry

Fifteen members of the Design Charrette team, approved by Session, met six times between February 29 and May 2, 2020 with Dimension IV architects Dan Roarty and Kristen Lewandowski. What follows is a summary of First Presbyterian Church's context, opportunities and recommendations regarding renovations to our facility.

Context

- ~ We are an historic downtown church, dedicated to ministry with our neighbors.
- ~ The 1920s section of our building is deteriorating and requires immediate attention.
- ~ We have 40,000+ sf and most of it is inaccessible, therefore our ministry is hampered.

Opportunities

- ~ The 2019 engineering analysis recommended taking down the 1920s section of the building. Repair estimates of \$850,000 would not improve accessibility.
- ~ Making our church accessible creates ministry opportunities and requires an elevator.
- ~ This is an opportunity to design space to best serve our mission and ministry. Worship and accessibility are considered necessities. Beyond those, our Charrette team identified the following congregational priorities in order of importance:

1. Community partnerships (IL Symphony, Joy of Movement, Garvey-Tubman, etc)
2. Kitchen update and expanded use
3. Samaritan Ministries (both social services desk and food pantry)
4. Kids/families
5. Creative arts
6. Meeting spaces

It should be noted that these priorities align with the project outcomes from the 2018 Community Asset Mapping project.

Recommendations

- ~ Session may share the Design Charrette report and other information with the congregation (via website, zoom meeting, mailing, etc) and seek additional responses and suggestions.
- ~ Both congregational and presbytery approval would be required for a loan to fund this project. A capital campaign will be necessary.
- ~ A construction process would bring together an architect and contractor to work with us to complete our project.