

Knox Church

October 28 Facilitated Conversation hosted by Property Redevelopment Committee (aka Knox Futures Team)

Guest Presenter and Facilitator Mr. Bob Richards, UCC Edge

Note from Facilitated Conversation / Congregational Meeting

The purpose of the meeting was two-fold:

Section 1 Provide an overview of work done to date by the committee, as requested by the congregation at the 2018 Annual Meeting, and provide an opportunity to receive feedback from members of our congregational family.

Section 2 To provide a formal opportunity for the Congregation (Congregational Meeting and Vote) to support the recent decision by Council, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Line of Credit(LOC) to enable Knox Church to enter a formal relationship with UCC Edge for the purposes of exploring future options. All of which come back to the congregation for decision making.

Section 1 Bob provided a thoughtful and informative reflection during the morning worship service.

A boxed-lunch was hosted by the committee and just over 75 people attended, 63 people signed attendance.

Questions were posed to table-groups, for conversation and note taking. Each table was encouraged to discuss, and return to the full group with their thoughts.

Q 1: WHY DO WE EXIST (as a Christian Church)

- The love and teachings of Jesus should guide everything we do REGARDLESS of what IT is.
- Principle of love
- Mission statement
- Disciples & church pay reverence to our Lord first.

Congregational participants were asked to zero in on the question a tad to share their thoughts on the differences between us, as a UNITED CHURCH, and other faiths, other service providers.

What differentiates what we do?

What do WE do that other faiths do not?

The comments that followed, included:

- Spiritual renewal
- Family support – Christian family
- Place of peace and quiet in our world
- Empathy for our fellow men and women

Q2: WHAT EIGHTS US?

- Doing something!
- Investigating
- Coming up with some ideas and build it from there
- Congregation is driving the whole process
- Factual perspective
- Congregation makes the decisions
- We have professional help
- We've turned the corner
- Still have options. We are moving forward
- We are doing something – we are moving into the future in a positive way
- Getting of the Insanity train – doing the same things over and over and expecting different results
- UCW – moving forward in a positive way
- Future of Knox
- Change is good
- Possibility to create something huge and show the love of God in our community

Q3: WHAT ARE OUR FEARS?

- Unknowns
- Communication issues
- We don't know what we don't know
- Conflict and disagreement
- BE BRAVE!
- Costs
- Process takes a long time – change takes a long time...will it exceed the minister's patience.

Notes were gathered from the tables and included the following comments (verbatim):

- You have permission to do whatever you want.
- We will lose Knox if you do not.
- COME meal
- Support shelters
- Support internal family
- Community outreach (help)
- Show how to treat each other
- Smaller space
- NEED kitchen, hall, sanctuary
- God and Jesus above all
- Youth is key
- Difference between us and Muslims, Jews, etc – The Christian church is asked to preach/teach about Jesus. We do by doing, not talking. Street Missions – check but not everyone will come. Need to be innovative and need to live the gospel.
- Baptisms
- Christian fellowship
- Keep us grounded, ethical, good
- Personal spiritual growth
- Part of a family support belonging moral spiritual support

- Part of a family, support, belonging, moral, spiritual support
- Christian education, learning, mission and teaching the meaning of God
- Outreach, mission, locally and world-wide
- We are going to come out of this better
- Concrete planning for the future
- This may be our legacy
- The rest of society is changing. We need to change and reach out and be different. Stop the insanity
- There are always people we lose – leave behind
- Togetherness
- Try and follow Jesus / teachings
- Spread the word of God / teach / live the gospel
- Share – serve everyone
- Support – well-dressed but needy
- Lose support – sharing of ourselves
- Servants of the church – giving oneself
- Lead by example
- Continue teaching
- Its not about bricks and mortar
- Expand family – couples club
- Projects – self-accomplishments
- Inside/outside planning
- Needs in community – partnerships
- Silos – leveraging
- Finding the great things and build them up
- Mission – clarify our mission
- Clustering – partnerships with other pastoral charges (local)

Section 2 Motion by Floyd Fullerton, Seconded by Linda White to allow both members and adherents to vote at the motion to be presented re the MOU and LOC.
Motion Passed

Motion by Don Farmer, Seconded by ??? to direct the Stewarts of Knox United to sign the Memorandum of Understanding and the Line of Credit documents, to allow Knox United Church to proceed with a formal engagement with UCC Edge, for future options re our church and property.
Motion Passed.