

We are Moving Forward – Framework for Master Plan

Descendents of the Protestant Reformation in the Wesleyan tradition know that the community of faith can exist without space, yet at the same time space is needed and expresses something about the ministry and identity of Royal Oak First United Methodist Church.

Recommendations

- 1 **Stay in the current location.** Our congregation is fortunate to be in a downtown location filled with life. God has called us to be the church in this time and place and we embrace that call as we continue to seek ways to reach out to the community and invite others into our congregation.
- 2 **Every year** each committee/work area will **evaluate and redefine** what our **current ministries** are in the core areas, as well as any new ministries and identify building changes including at 609 S. Lafayette that will help those ministries to be more effective. Encourage champions for new ministries.
- 3 Every year at the charge conference authorize **the Trustees to plan for the possibility of additional properties becoming available** on our block so that if an opportunity presents itself we can respond in a timely manner.
- 4 **Explore partnering** with other churches to offer programs or provide services.
- 5 Renovate and reorganize space in functionally appropriate ways, always paying attention to our ministries to meet the needs of today and the future while respecting the historical architectural character of the building. **Explore using rooms in new ways** to discover the best fit between our ministries and the building architecture without significant expenditures.
- 6 **Use prime space**, particularly on the sanctuary level, **with intention** to provide ministries that we want to be highly visible and accessible.
- 7 **Become a place of welcome and hospitality** by expressing the beauty of God visually. A clean and well-kept building is a statement of welcome. A well-maintained building is also a statement of responsible stewardship for not only new spaces but current ones. Learn from visitors and our members what works well in the building to make our architecture work for us. Our building should reach out to visitors so they say; "I have to belong to this church."
- 8 **Plan a new enhanced Lafayette entrance** and any other outside improvements to continue the work of making our building welcoming to first-time visitors.
- 9 **Make definite plans to renovate the sanctuary** in support of the highest priority identified by our members.
- 10 **Every three years the Master Plan Study Committee should be revived** to review the fit between the master plan and the current direction of the congregation.

Approved by Master Plan Study Committee 6-10-2008