
Building Planning

Purpose – The congregation will provide guidance to the Board of Directors for renovating our MLUUC building and grounds.

Congregational discussion will take place during the Sunday worship service on **23 July 2017**.

Send your top 3 suggestions for building task statements to Bruce Wood at woodbonriver@hotmail.com by Sunday, **16 July 2017**. We will analyze building task statements anonymously, no names attached.

Begin forming suggestions by **focusing on mission**. Mission statement paraphrase:

The mission of MLUUC is to advocate for the 7 UU Principles through worship, service, and pastoral care for each other.

Statement format:

Building task statements have 3 parts:

1. Employ a specific tactic. 2. ... so we can ... 3. Enable a general strategy.

Parts 1 and 3 need to be brief, seven words or less for each part. Part 2 stays the same, 3 words.

(specific action verb phrase) ... so we can ... (values-based, mission-oriented action verb phrase).

4 Examples:

-Build an exit on the north wall ... so we can ... host larger community gatherings more safely.

-Expand parking space ... so we can ... welcome more people.

-Build a larger kitchen ... so we can ... prepare meals to strengthen our community.

-Build 2 new restrooms ... so we can ... host large gatherings and provide respectful privacy.

Process and Results

Use UU Principles for guidance for Part 3. If Part 3 does not advocate for one or more of the 7 UU Principles or it lacks mission focus, that lack of mission clarity argues against doing Part 1.

Wood will tally the frequency of mention, organize, and categorize the suggestions into a display before the service on 23 July. The display will not show names of who sent in the suggestions.

During the 20-minute sermon period of the service, Wood will facilitate and record a discussion of the displayed categorized statements using questions like: “What might this behavior look like?” “How might we sequence these categorized steps?” “What characteristics of this task imply priority?” “What might make this statement more specific?” Note that questions are also 7 words or less.

The **discussion will yield** a more thoroughly analyzed display for guiding the Board’s planning process.

More Examples and Discussion – taken from many conversations after the service on 11 June. —

Fix roof leaks ... so we can ... make facilities serve missions long term. *Note the strategy implications of the phrase “long term.” Such phrases in Part 3 drive the Board to clarify strategy based on values. In this case, the strategic implications are that the church will stay in this building, not try to sell or flip it and move. There is a difference in how we implement Part 1 of the statement, “Fix roof leaks,” or other maintenance and repair tasks, depending on whether the Board adopts a short term or long term strategy.*

Repair and paint the façade ... so we can ... attract attention to promote membership growth. *Note that the strategic intent is NOT to increase property values so we can sell the building more quickly.*

Plant vegetation and beautify the landscape ... so we can ... create a spiritually affirming, contemplative, peaceful environment.

Clear lot under billboard for extra parking ... so we can ... host large community service activities.

Note the enabling connection between the two statements directly above, a connection which is not immediately apparent. If we want to host large groups, which is a strategic option, we must increase parking space, which severely limits how we might landscape and where we plant vegetation. However, we own the large lot under the billboard on the east side of the fire station. If we want to invest the money, we could clear that lot and create ample parking space there, which would enable flexibility in landscaping around the building, which would resolve the apparent conflict between parking and landscaping. Let’s look for more ways to expand the solution space and resolve apparent conflicts by exploring tactical and strategic implications and connections among building task statements.

Rent our second building ... so we can ... raise money to fund programs and renovations.

Improve our second building with water and HVAC ... so we can ... raise more rent for programs and renovations.

Improve our second building ... so we can ... have more space for church programs.

Sell the lot under the billboard ... so we can ... reduce mortgage payments and fund more programs.

Connect to Ellijay city water ... so we can ... avoid illnesses from dirty well water.

Install outside water faucet ... so we can ... irrigate plants to beautify our landscaped environment.

*And the list of potential building task statements goes on and on. Please feel free to steal these ideas, modify them, and add completely new ideas to form your top 3 building task statements. **Have fun.***
