

October 21, 2011

Last spring, after many months of thoughtful exchange of ideas about future facility needs, a congregational vote was held. Seventy-two percent of the 190 members casting a ballot, voted “no” to the question “will our current building in its present form, with reasonable maintenance and essential remodeling, be adequate for fulfilling our mission as we move forward 15 to 20 years into the future?”

Mindful that the congregation expressed strongly that our current facilities are inadequate, the Board of Trustees will be asking a small group of members to continue the process of planning for the future facilities needs of UUSIC. The Board wants a select group of members to review all existing data (survey results, transcripts of meetings, reports and other documents, etc.) that have been collected to this point. The group may conduct interviews of key informants and gather additional information. They will also do other exploration as needed and begin working with a consultant in order to move forward on this important issue.

The Board expects this focused task force to complete a written document with specific recommendations on how to achieve the ultimate goal of having desirable facilities to support our mission. We hope this report will include one or more specific plans for the congregation to approve. If that point is not reached, then the Board expects clear recommendations for the next steps to ultimately get us to that goal.

The Board will select six to eight committed members to serve on the task force. Two or three board members will serve and an additional four to six members will be chosen by the Board with the help of the Leadership Development Committee.

Your Board of Trustees is committed to acting on the congregation’s directive regarding the future needs of the Society. To assure continued progress, we will require that the task force meet monthly and give updates to the full board. The meetings will be open to the congregation and agendas will be announced in advance. The focus will be to conduct a thorough, unbiased and informative study that advances the interests of UUSIC. The Board will ask the task force to develop an ambitious timeline and complete work as quickly as is reasonable in 2012.

The Board appreciates the contributions and support many of you have given to this point. Committed and hard working volunteers are needed to move us forward. If you want to recommend someone for this task force or if you wish to be considered yourself, please contact Sue Otto, Board President, or Tom McMurray or Deb Schoelerman, co-chairs of the Leadership Development Committee. The Board plans to complete selection of the task force by its December 8th meeting.