

**Notes from RE teacher/parent forum  
Jan. 9, 2011**

**Members present:**

Michele Hosp	CYC member/parent
Meredith Gall	CYC member/parent
Maureen Patterson	teacher
Deb Delaet	1-3 teacher/parent
John Lanaghan	jr high teacher/parent
Lori Enloe	parent
Charlie Eastham	RE teacher 4 - 6
Sherry Dolash	parent
David Tokuhisa	parent/jr high teacher
Lisa Havercamp	Board/parent
Susan Kasal Young	Board/RE/parent
Russ Lenth	Board
Steve Locher	Board

Editors Note: One participant submitted detailed written responses in addition to participating in the focus group. This participant's comments are shown in quotes.

**Role of Site or Building in Fullfilling Mission over next 15-20 years**

From written response of one participant respondent:

"The site needs to be flexible to accommodate many different types of programming, much of which we cannot imagine right now. It needs to be accessible and large enough to meet all future needs. It should also be open and welcoming. Unlike the current building, it needs to work – like a working heating system."

**Benefits to current building:**

Pre K – K class meets needs for 4 – 5yr old kids,  
(Has sink, table space, storage closet, rug space for creative play, and natural light; bathroom available, accommodates numbers)  
Downtown central location nice, no one is coming from too far away, pulls people together; benefits downtown, connects with larger community;  
People can walk or bike although the majority does drive

### **Challenges to current building:**

From written response by one participant respondent:

“As a former architectural magazine editor who has written extensively about modernization and new construction, I do not feel the current building will meet the needs. There are too many problems. It would be best for the environment, church organization and congregation members to have a new facility. I do not have a strong preference if that is a new facility on the current site, a new one on a different site or renovation of a better building on a different site.”

If PreK/K class has 12 kids or greater it's too crowded

No sinks makes it difficult to do projects and clean up after RE or foster good hygiene

No bathroom on the third floor requires sending an adult with child or sending them alone

Bathrooms all unisex

Lack of proximity for interaction, cross-age stuff, due to classes up on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and other classes in basement

No space for gathering large group where all families fit to share meal or attend event; hard to involve all children in one event

Lack hang-out space for junior high-senior high kids during coffee hour or after service – no space of their own

Later service classes are packed, couldn't take more kids.

Jr High class in basement crowded

    Kids sit on floor

    Must use two people and elevator to get TV/VCR to room

No green space for picnics & family activities (not sure how important that is)

Poor heating/cooling

Some classrooms freezing (especially 1-3 on north side of building)

No storage space in most rooms for classroom materials

Question the viability of the 9:30 RE. (Is 1 – 3 students a good use of volunteers?)

Can be difficult to park during the week and must pay

Lack of accessibility a huge issue. No child in a wheelchair could come to RE and others with mobility issues are not likely to volunteer in RE

**Benefits of different site:**

From written response of one participant:

“Benefits: Having a facility that meets all the needs of the congregation, sound environmentalism, luxuries like heat in the winter and cool air in the summer, expanded programming for UU and the community, a better chance at membership increases”

Accessibility, welcoming space, heating air-conditioning, enough space for all RE events – classrooms with better storage, bathroom access, physically healthy environment

Cluster classrooms closer together to facilitate in student pick up as well as collaboration and community building – providing space for community organizations and non-profits

A new building offers so many opportunities to do things the way we want to in an adequate space; sinks and workspace – adequate bathroom facilities

Could have rooms with accordion doors to allow for flexibility

Opportunity to explore other class configurations (currently 1- 3 & 4 – 6) Could look at 1 - 2, 3 - 4, 5- 6, or ????

Could have all RE at same time

Could have meeting space for all RE kids

Can build a new building or renovate another building and be green.

Each room could have storage

Could relocate to a site that would foster a multicultural, diverse congregation (i.e. SE side)

Could join with others and develop a multi-use space

A healthy environment

Could be multi-use with daycare or preschool onsite

**Challenges of a different site:**

From one written response of one participant:

“Cost, convincing enough members to support it, disruption to congregation during the transition”

Financial cost? Resource consumption? Timeline might be long – years

Lack of central location

Would not want to drive too far

Do not want to contribute to suburbanization of IC;

Moving north not desirable – suburbanization works against downtown

(Geography of Nowhere), connecting with larger community

**What questions would you want to have answered to make a well-informed decision?**

From a written response of one participant:

“What are the congregation’s three top priorities, in order?”

What are the general cost implications of renovating on this site, building new on this site, building new on an unoccupied site and renovating/purchasing another building?”

What are people willing to commit financially? Is this only a dream or is it a real possibility?

Is there a realistic space to repurpose or to build upon?

What size of facility are we talking about?

What are the trends in the community for growth?

Do we have a source for revenue? Could we bring in money?

Do we want to have a consultant again? Relate facility to community trends and outcomes with churches that have built new/larger buildings.

**What issues should the Board address in developing a recommendation about our facility?**

From written response of one participant:

“No matter what the decision, some members will be very upset. The Board should work to build bridges between people of disparate views throughout the process.”

People make conscious decisions about where they buy homes so they do not need to drive too far~

How far would people drive to gain flexibility and room for growth?

Where does our congregation live? Would be interesting to see on a map.

What financial resources are available for making option a realistic possibility?

What are the costs or building vs renovating?

Could we team up with a non-profit? Rent space?

What would the timeline for each option be?

Relate to community trends – what happens when you move, build a larger facility?

How important is revenue production to plan?

Integrating UU principles in whatever decision we make.

Environmentalism, diversity

Multiuse facility is a priority

Keep our principles and mission at the forefront