

Questions For You from the Facility Task Force

By Linda Zaugg

Have you ever had trouble getting into the church or finding your way to a meeting or to pick up your child? Do you worry about what might happen to the church building during a major earthquake? Are you concerned about the climate impact of our energy use, not to mention its inefficiency? Do you wonder how the congregation will secure parking space once the parking lot behind us has begun its evolution into an apartment complex in a couple of months? Do you feel that the current buildings support our mission and our vision for the future and are the right size for us?

These are some of the issues that our task force is grappling with, as we interview tenants and user groups, collect information, study transcripts of the focus groups, ponder our Key Ministries, and consider what other downtown churches have done with aging buildings. Just as in 1910, when the road was regraded out from under the new downtown church, the post-Covid future is upon us, and the Long-Range Plan has asked us to analyze the cost and feasibility of all these options:

- Keep and retrofit all existing buildings to meet our requirements.
- Keep the sanctuary and tear down the other buildings. Retrofit the sanctuary and build new facilities on the site of the other buildings.
- Tear down all three buildings and build new facilities on the site.
- Sell the existing buildings and property and relocate.
- Other?

These directives are quoted from the Scope of Work (SOW) for our task force. You can read this whole document on the church's website by selecting this tab on the Home Page:

KEEP UP WITH THE LONG RANGE PLANNING TASK FORCES

The Facility Task Force needs you — your prayers, your imagination and your input! We want your comments, concerns, suggestions or any resources you may know about. Contact us at our new email address: facilitytaskforce@seattlefirstbaptist.org