

Board of Trustees Update - January 2023

Regarding the building project at 695 Springfield Ave, the Board met with the architect, Louis Cherry, along with members of the Facilities Expansion Task Force (FET). We learned that the estimated cost to fulfill our original wish list exceeds our target of \$12 million. As a result, we've asked them to provide a comprehensive design along with options for scaling it back, as needed. They will focus on what's necessary for a robust Sunday experience including a large sanctuary, meeting rooms for lifespan learning, a large welcome hall, and a kitchen. Other areas are yet to be determined. See last week's [FET update](#) for additional information including opportunities to get involved.

We are looking forward to the visit of the architects on March 25-26 to present preliminary digital renderings to the congregation, both for the building and the grounds. The Board and the FET have been inspired by the concepts the architects have shared so far. Watch for details as the schedule is ironed out.

As plans and costs for 695 gradually become clearer, the board is beginning to identify various options as to how to best handle the future of 4 Waldron. While the Board is looking at ways to repurpose 4 Waldron in a way that serves our community well and aligns with our mission, we believe it will also be prudent to consider the potential sale of 4 Waldron as an option.

Although our original expectation was to attempt to retain 4 Waldron, the financial and people resource implications of maintaining the property are considerable. It may play out that the proceeds of a sale would make it possible for Beacon to build a comprehensive new home at 695 that allows us to best live into our vision and mission.

With these goals and trade-offs in mind, the board has begun gathering information to allow us to bring forth a recommendation to the congregation. We recognize this topic may be an emotional one for some of us. Rest assured, the Lead Ministry Team and Board see this as a significant and complex topic and will take the time to consider it thoughtfully.

In this spirit, two teams have been launched by the Board to develop potential options: the Property Value Team and the Missional Objective Team. These teams will work hand-in-hand to consider the mission and financial elements and come forth with options for the Board to consider. Ultimately, recommendations will be put forth to the congregation for approval.

You will begin hearing more about this topic in the coming months. In the meantime, Board members are among the greeters every Sunday and welcome your comments and questions.

Please also feel free to contact the Board at BoardofTrustees@summitbeacon.org.