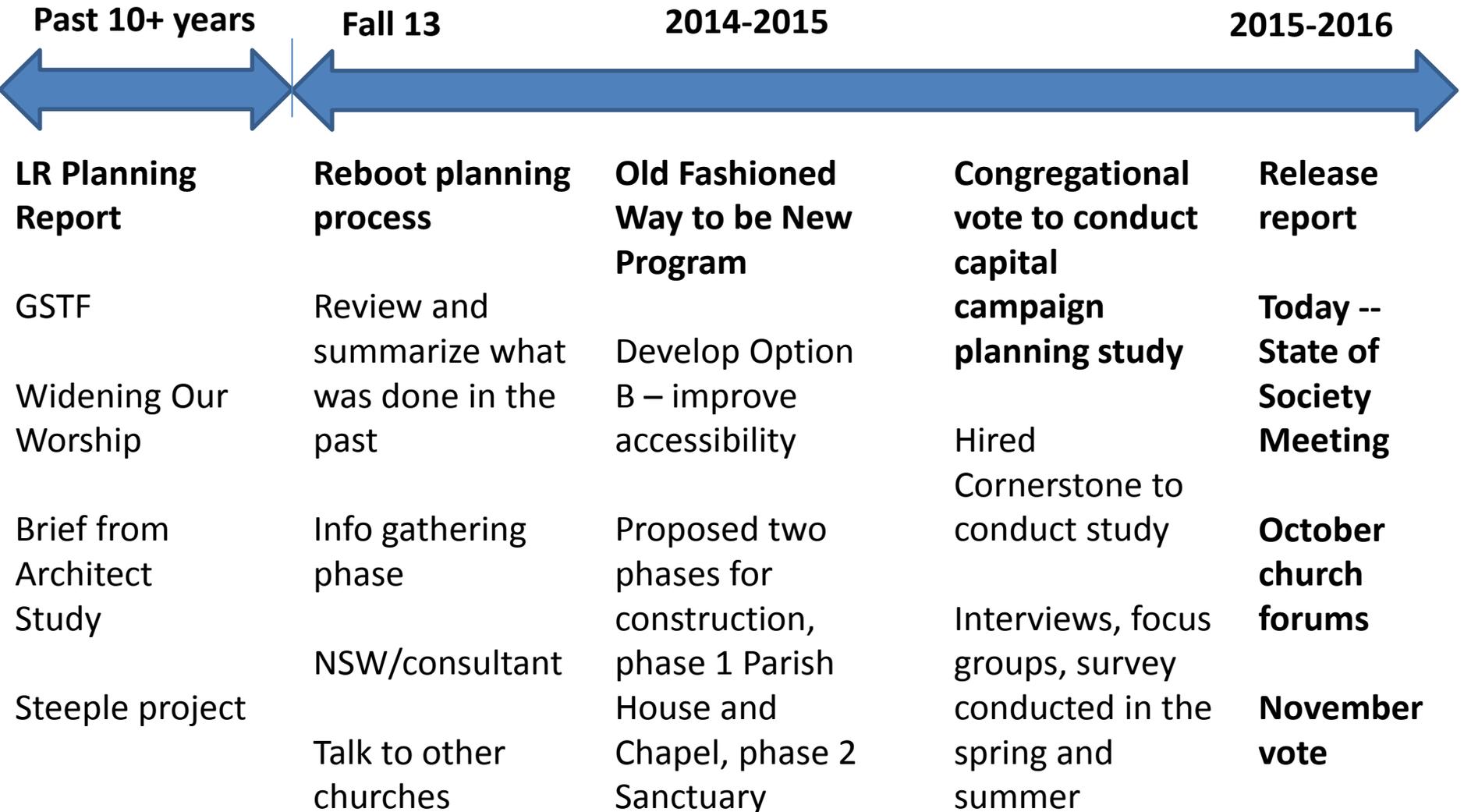


**NSTF Update:
Old Fashioned Way to Be New—
It's Decision Time!
State of Society Meeting
Fall 2015**

Current NSTF Team

- Ruth Whalen—lead facilitator for church forums, Standing Committee member
- Ron Deschenes, Chris Sweetnam, David Blackburn—revised building plans
- Tom Coffey—financing plans
- John Schneider—coordination and outreach, Standing Committee member

More than a Decade....

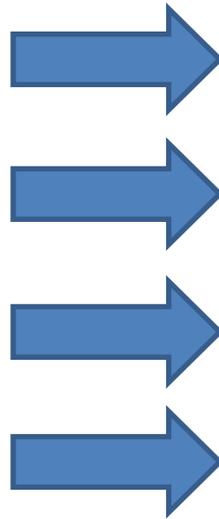


Review: Key Points

- This discussion has been taking place for more than a decade
- Fall 2014: Old Fashioned Way to be New:
 - Fund renovations to make the sanctuary, Parish House, and chapel accessible
- Secured the services of Cornerstone Fundraising to conduct a capital campaign planning study
- We now know that we can begin to improve access with what we know we can raise
 - Exactly how much we can do depends on what we can raise

Accessibility program

- 4 dimensions
 - Physical
 - Technological
 - Collaborative
 - Community



Still in the Proposal Mode...

- Proposal
 - Open to feedback and conversation
 - Capital campaign
 - Financing
 - Project details
 - Leadership
- Plan
 - A commitment of what will happen
 - Capital campaign
 - Financing
 - Project details
 - Leadership

Discernment Questions

- Does this project align with our covenant?
- To what extent do we have the capacity—time, talent, treasure, volunteers, staff, skills—to do this important work?
- Do we have the will we need to pull this off?

Planning Study, Cornerstone Process

- Conducted 17 personal interviews
- Facilitated 3 focus groups with 28 participants
- Conducted an online and mail survey with 64 responses
- Total unique responses: 74
- Presented results to NSTF and Standing Committee in late June; final report accepted by Standing Committee and distributed in September

Cornerstone Highlights

- Handicapped accessibility is seen as a priority
- We are a generous community but not a particular wealthy one
 - Scope of work seen as beyond the financial ability of the community
 - But majority, 76%, would give to campaign
 - Concerns about the annual canvass
- There is support for a “bridge-loan” or a mortgage backed by endowment

Cornerstone Recommendations

- Set a **capital campaign goal** of \$500,000
 - Secured a lead gift, already pledged, of \$100,000 (20% of the campaign) to launch the campaign
 - Should expect between 100 and 125 gifts to fund the campaign
 - Identified \$275,000 in pledges, more than 50% of the goal
- **Consider** a small mortgage or bridge loan of at least \$250,000 to help finance accessibility projects

Work to Do

- We need to establish accessibility priorities to match available funding—\$500,000 minimum
- We need to talk about money, including the endowment
 - Canvass needs vs. capital campaign needs
- Several large gifts pledged, but the majority of survey respondents were unsure of what they would pledge (but 76% surveyed said they would give)
- Leadership – setting priorities for renovations and recruiting volunteers for possible campaign

NSTF Next Steps

- ✓ Complete, circulate and discuss the final report
- Revisit the building program and set priorities
- Facilitate discernment discussions about 1) whether or not we commit to accessibility improvements and 2) how we finance the project:
 - 1) capital campaign (\$500,000) and if we
 - 2) secure a mortgage and/or leverage the endowment (\$250,000 or more)
- November 8 Vote

October Church Forums

- October 4 and 25 at 11:30am and October 18 at 4:30pm; Chapel
- Review what we have learned
- Consider 3 Discernment Questions
 - Does this project align with our covenant?
 - To what extent do we have the capacity—time, talent, treasure, volunteers, staff, skills—to do this important work?
 - Do we have the will we need to pull this off?

*Two roads diverged in a wood,
and I—*

I took the one less traveled by,

***And that has made all the
difference.***

Please Join Us!

October Church Discernment Forums

As we prepare for a November 8 vote on a campaign to raise funds to improve accessibility to our church, join in on the discussion—

- **October 4 and 25 at 11:30am and October 18 at 4:30pm; First Parish Chapel**
- **Review what we have learned and Consider 3 Discernment Questions**
 - Does this project align with our covenant?
 - To what extent do we have the capacity—time, talent, treasure, volunteers, staff, skills—to do this important work?
 - Do we have the will we need to pull this off?

“Old Fashioned Way to be New”

Robert Frost

