

Church Forum Notes from 10.4.2015 (Groups 1-4) 10.18.2005 (Groups 5-6)

I. First step: reading 10 finding summary

II. We do nothing discussion.

Table	<i>1) Does this choice align with our covenant?</i>	<i>2) Do we have the capacity, time, talent and treasure?</i>	<i>3) Do we have the will?</i>
Group 1 – Do Nothing	No, but – divide congregation, competing with other aspects of the covenant, complimentary addition to welcoming.	Yes – to do nothing. Diminish return over time.	No – to do nothing. People want to move forward with <u>something</u> . Too long/too much invested to do something with the building.
Group 2 – Do Nothing	No. Only way it <u>could</u> would be if doing noting allowed for money for some other project aligned with covenant – none proposed.	Capacity to do nothing doesn't exist. We have talent and capacity. We have been talking	Yes! To do something; if we do nothing, we are living against our covenant.
Group 3 – Do Nothing	What does nothing mean? No. Still welcoming to all within our current physical ability. No – because she has stories of people with disabilities who can't come in; working on signage – need a button. Vestry – chapel for summer services takes too long – never seen it again. Comparison to welcoming congregation (accepting vs. welcoming)	Yes. In five years will we have the time, talent, and treasure because we did not make the changes? Not sure we have the capacity to do nothing that many of us will be so upset. WE ARE GOING TO BE THE ONES THAT NEEDS ACCESSIBILITY. Are some of the elder members not coming because of lack of accessibility?	What does it mean “will do nothing?” WE DO NOT HAVE THE WILL NOT TO. NO – don't have the will to do something. If ten years from now, we are still having this discussion – how are WE going to get into the church?

Group 4 – Do Nothing	Equal opportunity for worship; doing nothing does not align with our covenant.	Capacity to do nothing doesn't exist. We have talent and capacity. We have been talking	Yes! To do something; if we do nothing, we are living against our covenant.
Group 5 – Do Nothing	Doing nothing makes us poor stewards of our congregation Lara's son couldn't attend Evening Service with wheel chair People are self-conscience about needing help with the elevator	Yes, we could do nothing, doesn't require any effort or concern Food for thought, if it would have cost money to be a Welcoming Congregation, would we have voted yes? It's time to make a decision on this project More people in our congregation will need a new elevator as we get older	What's the alternative of we do nothing?
Group 6 – Do Nothing	No, does not nurture all souls. We would not be good stewards of our building and congregation Does not strengthen our beloved community	Discourages those who have dedicated their time and treasure to the building Not doing this might give us time to do something else	Well yes, we have already been at this for 12 years Conversation about ambivalence still alive It may be beyond our means Yes, a decision may be overwhelming

We asked people to vote; “Fist to Five”.

October 4th-

Fist (I completely dislike the idea of doing nothing): 5

1 or 2 (I would prefer not to do nothing): 17

3(We could do something or nothing) : 1

4(I think we should do nothing) : none

5 (Yes, let's do nothing) : 1 (but this person was also talking about figuring out immediate alternative options to the elevator which makes me think they may have been confused by the range.)

24 total participants.

October 18th-

Fist (I completely dislike the idea of doing nothing): 2

1 or 2 (I would prefer not to do nothing): 8

3(We could do something or nothing) : 1

4(I think we should do nothing) : none

5 (Yes, let's do something) : none

11 total participants.

III. We do something discussion.

October 4th

Capital Campaign (5 people went to the table about the capital campaign)

1) Does this choice align with our covenant?

I worry that the answer is no because capital campaigns speak to people with [unreadable] income but excludes in some way – how we do this without alienating time and talent for those without treasure.

Losing our mission to be welcoming to all.

Want to redefine capital campaign [unreadable] to include members without financial means.

Yes – our covenant to walk together even when it is difficult.

Yes but it might stretch us too thin.

2) Do we have the capacity, time, talent and treasure?

We have the time and the talent but do we have the treasure? Yes. Maybe.

3) Do we have the will?

We think we have the will but will it be enough?

Exploring Financial Options [Group 1] (14 people went to the other funding tables)

1) Does this choice align with our covenant?

Align with covenant – explore alignments; how do we move forward?

Covenant has many components – if we can't pay our bills has does that define with the covenant?

Competing interests

Stewardship/custodian – present/future

Honoring our ancestors – past donors to the endowment – insuring their desires are met.

2) Do we have the capacity, time, talent and treasure?

To explore – yes BUT concerned about the 'treasure'

Is their capacity for a decision? Yes.

3) Do we have the will?

To explore – yes. To decide and commit – a much more challenging decision to discern.

Exploring Financial Options [Group 2]

1) Does this choice align with our covenant?

Yes – look at all alternatives to be good stewards; if we need to support covenant then we need to explore options.

Yes to exploring

Not sure if signing on to a loan supports: how would a loan look to future generations of this congregation? Long-term stewardship

2) Do we have the capacity, time, talent and treasure?

Yes, we hope so? It's a lot of work for volunteers.

(Hire someone to find financing?)

3) Do we have the will?

Will to explore – yes.

Will to sign in to some alternative finance options – don't know

Losing Space (5 people went to the space table.)

1) Does this choice align with our covenant?

No – need to determine which is more important on a routine basis, accessibility vs. space, considering times of maximum usage.

2) Do we have the capacity, time, talent and treasure?

Yes – what do we lose by having less space – growth, too many students, losing same space, community responsibility/services?

3) Do we have the will?

Yes

October 18th

Capital Campaign (0 people went to the table about the capital campaign)

Exploring Financial Options (XX people went to the other funding tables)

1) Does this choice align with our covenant?

We need to understand what the impact is of using money from our endowment.

More info needs to be shared with the congregation.

2) Do we have the capacity, time, talent and treasure?

Do we have people qualified to lead this discussion?

Do we have trust in their judgement?

The long term financial stability of our church is important.

Future members of the congregation will need to deal with decisions we make today

3) Do we have the will?

Yes to explore other options.

Need to better educate the congregation

Who's job is it to research and present information about possibility of using money from the endowment?

Ellen should do a sermon on the endowment

Losing Space (XX people went to the space table.)

1) Does this choice align with our covenant?

Pendulum swings, growth vs change

We are moving space around and creating accessibility

Tough choices can be a blessing in the end

How much space will we lose?

Does losing space align with our covenant?

This is an opportunity to look at how we use our space.

2) Do we have the capacity, time, talent and treasure?

Yes – we do!!

3) Do we have the will?

Yes, we have reviewed using our space effectively

Concern we won't have project details at the vote on October 8th and people may have trouble supporting a vote without a vision

Need more time for a project plan, but we should go ahead with vote to go forward with fund raising

IV. Notecard departure

One thing I feel more certain about	Question(s) I still have
More certain that I have the will to participate in the fundraising process.	If the Capital Campaign is going to be enough as it is. Redefining clearly those who offer time and talent. Our financial limit as a family.
I am more certain that people support this project.	
We all care a lot.	
We would like to be more accessible.	I still have a question of what Plan C is.
That, in general, we want to do something.	How do we balance our future financial security with our desire to make some sort of progress?
I feel more certain that we need to do something to make us more accessible.	How will we afford to make us more accessible?
	Can we have an interim or temporary solution to a new elevator while raising funds?
	How long do we think that raising the money would take? What time is acceptable?
More aware that <u>doing nothing</u> does not feel like an option	
Something should be done.	What is the plan?
I am certain that the members of this congregation have a will to at least keep talking about what we can do to make this building more accessible.	How long will it take to raise money, to get the job done, and who will eventually benefit from any changes to the building? And can this hurt us in any way? (money-wise and time-wise)
I am more certain that we have financially knowledgeable people involved in this work.	How can we make a decision with so much financial fear in the congregation?
	What is the spirit of money allocated to the endowment? What did the founders and contributors to the endowment indent for this to serve as?

I feel more certain that I am now invested in the capital campaign and I am hopeful that I will feel invested in Plan C.	Will I feel that I, and all of us who aren't in leadership, will feel involved and listened to in the formation of Plan C?
I feel certain that we need to do something.	What can we do if Capital Campaign falls short? Can we break the renovations into smaller pieces so we can move forward?
I am certain we will go forward.	What happens if we fall short of the monetary goal if there is a time limit on the capital campaign?
I feel more certain that we have the will to do as much as possible.	Are we willing to challenge ourselves to do more than what is comfortable?
I am <u>certain</u> that we should do <u>something</u> to make the church more handicap accessible.	What are we going to do?
I feel more certain accessibility improvements are important to many.	I have not learned if space can be maintained (or increased) or what other improvements could be made while enhancing accessibility.
People feel more strongly about installing a new elevator than I thought. We are thinking in personal terms. (We may need the elevator.)	Will people give generously to a capital campaign? Will the same people give <u>more to each annual canvas</u> to pay for the amount that we borrow?
The congregation has the will to do <u>something</u> and especially that we are willing to fund something whether internal or external (ramps, etc.).	What are we "buying"? Perhaps it would have been more efficient to learn what the congregation could fund and then approach the architect to design affordable possibilities.
I feel more certain this congregation wants to move forward with building improvements using a capital campaign.	I think the balance of capital campaign/annual pledges/added debt will be a challenge to get agreement.
Our community has the will and capacity to move forward with a capital campaign to do something.	Do we need <u>consensus</u> for a funding decision? Can we have open discussions and rely upon the Standing Committee to make the final decision?

I feel more certain that we will make a good choice ultimately.	How long will this take? Are there different elevator sizes?
	If I become incapacitated and in a wheelchair in the future, do I have to find a new church?
	What will we get for \$750K? What are we going to look for now? What will be the impact on the annual canvass?
We do not have capacity to do nothing because our 70-80 year olds pledge the most and if they stop attending, their pledges may be reduced/lost.	
	How will we join canvass and capital campaign?
	Soundproof sliders in the room. Has this been thought of? As we increase our indoor accessibility. How do we increase our parking accessibility? Do we do a shuttle service?
October 18th	
We need to do something in order to keep alive our energy and motivation to continue as a caring congregation.	How do we make sure every voter knows/ understands the impact whatever decision we make?
I feel I better understand the implications of financing from the endowment	I question the enthusiasm of the general parish population once it understands the whole concept and commitment.
Discussion is good	Can we afford to do this? Can we really do nothing?
Do something with the elevator	How will I decide what I can pledge
About the potential and impact if we use the endowment in addition to a capital campaign	Do we want to use our endowment as a tool to grow, or reserve it for preservation of the “status quo”

<p>We have a moral, spiritual obligation to move forward with this project</p>	<p>Are we not a church with responsibilities and financial wherewithal? What are we saving for?</p>
<p>Making improvements to accessibility is aligned with our covenant</p>	<p>What is the will of people not attending one of these meetings?</p>
<p>We need to move forward and raise money and continue to imagine possibilities to become more accessible</p>	<p>Is an elevator our only option for greater accessibility</p>
<p>We have the will to do this as a community. Faith can be contagious, those who have it should share more vocally</p>	<p>none</p>
<p>Commitment to a new elevator and whatever hidden code violations need to be fixed.</p>	<p>Who figures out finance options outside of pledges (capital campaign)? How much is safe to borrow? Intentions are good, actually borrowing is scary.</p>
	<p>What improvements are we going to make? Just the elevator? Are we looking changes to the front steps and entrance? What about the narrow staircase up to the sanctuary?</p>
	<p>Are we in violation of any codes? What other costs might we incur? Anything we don't have control over?</p>
	<p>Whose job is it to research financing options and to educate the congregation?</p>
	<p>Can greater accessibility be achieved without a new elevator? Is there a way to build an entrance to the sanctuary that does not require an elevator? What happens if there is a fire and we can't use the elevator?</p>