

COMPILATION OF FEEDBACK GIVEN AT THE PROPERTY VISION TEAM AUGUST GATHERINGS

Comments specific to Ideas & Thoughts About Potential New Development

All comments at the gatherings were recorded as part of this document, therefore you may see similar if not exact comments made by different members of UPC. One hundred members offered their comments. It was important to record all comments to show the importance felt on a particular topic. If you have questions or comments about this material, please email us at UPCpropertyvisionteam@gmail.com or contact Stephanie Morris at stephanietmorris@sbcglobal.net or 512-415-9797.

IDEAS & THOUGHTS ABOUT POTENTIAL NEW DEVELOPMENT:

- We need to understand the big picture items before we put the smaller pieces (programming, etc.) into place. Do the smaller things address the larger picture or just make us think we are doing something?
- “Feed my sheep” – Need to make sure that all endeavors flow from what Jesus meant the church to be. And the “church” isn’t the building.
- In what we do – it is important that we nourish the growth of an individual soul
- Whatever new space is developed – how can it make the ministries (Uplift and Micah 6+) more visible? How could the church market its space beyond UT? What else needs to be in our community?
- We don’t need a lot of change as we are open minded to many things and people of all denominations
- It is important to keep our programs and ministries going at our UCP site during any construction/development. Would like to see work done in stages to allow for this.
- Would like to see more musicians. People who could volunteer as teachers (grad students, instructors, people who know how to play an instrument in the congregation) and allow an opportunity to learn an instrument for those who are disadvantaged. This could be piano, guitar or other instruments. Question as to how to acquire the smaller instruments and allow for practice time on a piano.
- Having flexible spaces in a church that could allow for different ministries would be good
- Could we have music interns that taught music?
- If we had a small Chapel space it could be used for smaller concerts, funerals and weddings
- We should use the sanctuary for concerts also
- It is important to remember the history of the church and what is happening in our community. We need to remember and find the “Bible” in all of this work and change. The church needs to stay grounded – rooted in worship and not just be mission & service. We need to continue to be learning about Christ as this is the essence of who we are.
- I hope we would be keeping our core values, but God might open us up to something new
- Would like to offer food to students
- We used to have a yoga studio, AA meetings, Girl Scouts groups, International Women’s meetings – we need to think about how to use our space during the week
- Offer an immunization clinic
- Integrate old architecture with new by utilizing pieces of our current building in what we build that is new
- Childcare for low-income families
- Whatever we decide to do or whoever we decide to work with, it must be something/one that is grounded in what we stand for
- We could offer space for counseling services
- We should consider offering housing to our pastors – a manse – in the high-rise building
- It is important to articulate that we want to do something different
- Homeless people want to be welcomed into a beautiful place also
- St. Michael’s out on Loop 360 is very clean and refreshing looking with lots of glass, wood floors and limestone
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CONT. IDEAS & THOUGHTS (page 2)

- Noting that Carrie Graham (consultant that worked with UPC in the spring of 2022) stated that what we do needs to be a drastic change if we are to do something
- We should think about how to connect to faculty/staff/grad students also. College kids come and go but these people are here and the grad students might want to stay in Austin and have a home church
- Knocking down the sanctuary is a non-starter, but just building on the Bevo Lot isn't the best either – there needs to be more integration
- If we had a small chapel space, it could be used for smaller concerts, funerals and weddings
- Missional outreach with a community garden where members of the garden give away the produce to the food insecure. Kind of like the Sunshine Gardens that offers produce to Micah 6 each Saturday.
- If UPC receives a large sum of money during development or over the course of time with a lease, this should not be used to pay for another pastor or just to fix our building. The money needs to be used to fund things like service and missional work and serve others and God.
- Church congregations are getting smaller so we have to do things to set us apart. UPC has a great performance space for organ concerts in the sanctuary and with the double roof it is acoustically great.
- Amazon drop box locations
- We could preserve and use again our stain glass windows if we build a new sanctuary like 1st Presbyterian did in Dallas
- Creating a pull through driveway to drop off mobility challenged individuals or for package deliveries
- Need multi-use spaces that are flexible and can be converted to needed spaces throughout the week
- Build a Presbyterian Student Center on the Bevo lot where students can study, Ukirk activities can be had, rec area
- Sound proof rooms where students can practice their musical instruments
- Need better bathrooms and showers in our facility
- Having music studios where students could come and learn music or practice would be good
- Having annual choir programs – musicals or joined choir programs. We could have speakers that projected the sound outside to engage the community
- Having a café like at St. David's downtown (café Devine) with a great chef that provides daily lunch
- Having a chapel space that is more intimate for use by all people and events
- A Wellness center for all ages – healthy living for all
- Community gardens – where to be had? – roof tops, elevated area on the property, designated ground area. Need to consider access to the gardens and how to offer the food to those who are in need of it.
- Spaces need to be created that feel comfortable to today's students
- Keep the trees in the courtyard and have multiple access points into the property versus just along SA St.
- Keeping the sanctuary as is was a must at first, but now am willing to consider something more open and inviting to others. This is an evolving thought process.
- Would want to do construction in phases in order to try and stay on the property and not have to move during development
- Would be interested in eco building – green energy, subsidies
- Health & Wellness for students & faculty – a medical study has shown that students who could be in outdoor spaces benefitted physically & mentally
- We need to use service opportunities and connect to campus & community as we develop our property
- Consider housing for “adults/seniors” vs. students who do not live here 12 months a year
- Need to be mindful of faculty/staff affordable housing
- Need to make sure we maintain and consider our seminary relationships with our development
- What are the needs of each committee within our church and how could a new facility better serve them or support them?
- Use our courtyard to attract our neighborhood. Add fountains/water features, seating, make it a place people could take rest from the noise. Have a peaceful place to enjoy. Not just students but all interested people.

CONT. IDEAS & THOUGHTS (page 3)

- A more modern and engaging facility could be designed to be more welcoming
- When David Chao's band played in the courtyard it made people pay attention – need to make the courtyard a place where people feel welcome to come join us
- Partner with other businesses or UT – start a counseling center or other helpful services
- Maybe the church is a “tool shed” to help provide meals and food assistance. Feed students, unhoused
- Need to create an income stream to re-direct the resources to help do more to reach the community around us. Hire more pastors or others to support other ministries.
- Covid changed our space needs and our attendance. We could use a smaller space – sanctuary and other building spaces for our UPC needs.
- Save the trees!
- Save the sanctuary or move it to the top of the building and have a view
- Create an amazing leasable space – wedding venues, campus parties, etc.
- Mass transportation may change who is coming into the neighborhood and what are their needs? Will they need childcare? A place to hang out for split shifts?
- A place for young married students, staff/faculty can live that is affordable.
- Provide daycare for UT faculty
- Want to provide university students things they need
- Use this opportunity to enhance the relationship between the seminary and the university
- We need to generate money some how
- One floor of a building needs to be intentional for student community.
- UPC could offer scholarships for room and board to students
- If the whole property is reconfigured, we can use the church property for intentional homeless housing and programs
- Housing for the employees and families of the university
- Use new space for various ministries/services
- We were drawn to architectural models that allowed students/people to pass through our property at various points – not through a gate
- A professionally staffed kitchen that helps feed people – perhaps hiring immigrants who want to create a business for themselves
- If we build taller, we can utilize the designated affordable housing percentage in the high-rise – think about helping those that work at UT
- Building a high-rise at 30 stories unlocks value
- Housing for interns or pastors or visiting professors
- Save the trees
- If the sanctuary is changed – incorporate things from the current sanctuary – organ, pews, windows, font, cross, etc.
- Don't put in a big electronic monitor in the sanctuary
- Bring the old and the modern together to create something special – fuse the future with the traditions of the past
- Make sure music traditions continue and if a new sanctuary is had that the choir loft is what is desired
- Consider the size that is adequate for the sanctuary
- Upgrade and have state of the art technology for sound, zoom and all aspects needed in the sanctuary and other places in our building
- Perfect location for an HEB or other grocery food chain – may need to figure out delivery trucks ability to get to site
- Building sustainably with green rooftops, LEAD specifications
- Create an activity center that provides for the community – lectures (UT could provide speakers), exercise classes, help with dementia, other educational events, games/rec areas

CONT. IDEAS & THOUGHTS (page 4)

- Create a multi-purpose space built at a high level that can be used for various venues – weddings, concerts, speakers, conferences, parties and as our Fellowship Hall. Something that we can generate revenue from.
- How do we make this space more vital for the community? – lunch, green space, open for more hours – a hub providing what serves the community
- Consider partnering with UT
- Expand and improve our mission – make delivery of mission services easier and more accessible
- Opportunities to grow and be leaders in the West Campus community making more of an impact in our community
- Increase the visibility of our church services and service
- Keep the trees and the courtyard and use the courtyard
- Pipe music from the service to the outside for passer bys
- Chapel up high
- Use the new facility to fill needs of the students
- Let the students define a Presbyterian Student Center – study hall, meals, coffee service
- Have a space for students to stay for youth trips to Austin or temporary relief for victims of various trauma which would require showers and a dorm
- Space that is accessible independent from the “main entrance” that students can use
- Space for social justice – Street Youth Ministry, Micah 6
- A walking bridge over the Co-op for direct access to campus from West Campus
- Public showers outside – an outdoor hygiene area
- Housing considerations for students that is affordable, visiting faculty, affordability for staff, senior housing, grad student housing
- Must consider environmental impact of new construction
- Respect the building as it is
- Music – our current set up is good for our size but do we have enough if we grow? The Bell choir could use more space
- Evaluate if daycare is needed for the West Campus area
- Grocery store – HEB
- Open air spaces
- Reach out to other universities in the area
- Access from parking areas that are safe
- Welcoming space for all ages that is needed and also is flexible for various uses
- Handicap access in all areas – new and existing
- WIFI throughout all areas
- Flexible spaces throughout
- Upgraded audio/visual systems throughout our entire space with more access points, improved zoom experience, electronic whiteboards+
- Offices for counseling or non-profits to use
- New spaces should be architecturally compatible with our current building
- Our space feels like a fortress – you have to go through a gate. Need more open passages in the building structure to allow people to move through and enter our space
- Having a coffee shop, eateries or exercises classes in and around our space brings people into community with us
- We must make sure that we are financially responsible and provide security for our future and the ministries we want to have
- Can our property provide us with more collaboration with other churches – pool our resources?
- If we do something with our structure – make it sustainable – a way to engage and care for God’s creation i.e. God’s good earth
- There is a great need for day care

CONT. IDEAS & THOUGHTS (page 5)

- Develop the Bevo lots
- If there is redevelopment of our church buildings – make sure that it looks like a church – love our sanctuary – it feels magical
- Love the trees & the courtyard!!!!
- Want a project that will provide income to the church
- Housing, counseling, community space – let form follow function as we build
- Love a traditional sanctuary, our archways, the tile roof and the organ
- Keep mission space in any facility
- Interested in seeing what developers might come up with
- Affordable housing options for students, faculty and others in our community
- Would like to see worship space, service space and offices with the ability to impact our ministry beyond our four walls
- Am willing to consider changing everything on all of the property
- Would like to see our service programs expand
- Office space for non-profit organizations whose purposes fit the mission-related criteria UPC develops