

# First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque



## Master Planning Study

### Programming Analysis

October 2009

Mullen Heller Architecture PC

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## Introduction

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In the spring of 2009, First Unitarian's, Building Planning Task Force enlisted Mullen Heller Architecture to develop a master plan for the church's campus. The need for this plan arose out of overcrowding of the congregation's existing facilities that was impeding the support and growth of the church's missions and activities. In order to create this plan, the Building Planning Task Force, with the assistance of MHA conducted workshops with various constituent groups within the congregation and with the congregation as a whole to solicit comments on the existing campus and facilities, an overall vision for the church and the church campus and specific spatial needs, both present and future. This document summarizes the results of this process and provides tabulations and recommendations that will serve as the basis for creation of the final masterplan document.

During the congregational workshops, three fundamental questions were asked:

1. What is your "vision" of the church and the church campus?
2. How do the current facilities support the congregational "vision" and function for the day to day activities of the church community?
3. What remedies and additional spaces are needed for the immediate and long term support of church's function and growth?

Parts I of this document is a collection of responses to these questions. Part II is a summary and analysis of these responses and Part III contains a tabulation of existing and proposed spaces on which the masterplan will be based.

The purpose of gathering this preliminary programming information is to provide a general direction for the masterplan. This document is a compilation of all meetings with committees and the congregation, and has been edited down to the pertinent programming material. All comments are included in the notes from those specific meetings.

## Zoning Information

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Legal Description: Lot 8D1, Block B, Indian Acres Subdivision and Lot 8B, Block B Indian Acres Subdivision

Land Area: 3.0769 acres (Lot 8D1) and 0.4595 acres (Lot 8B)

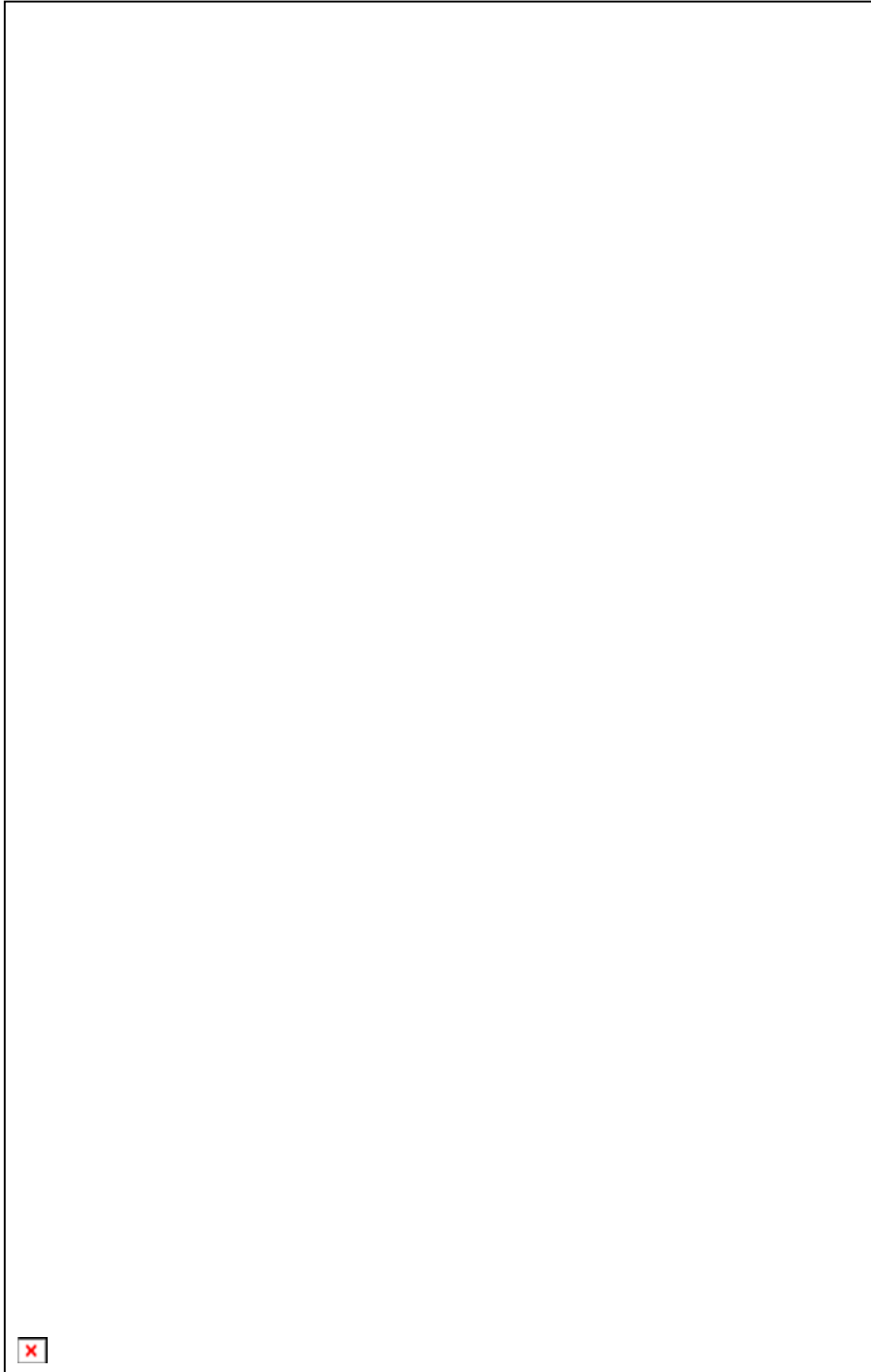
Zoning: SU-1 for O-1 Uses (Lot 8D1) and SU-1 for O-1 and C-1 Uses (Lot 8B)



## Previous Masterplan

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A masterplan for First Unitarian was completed in 1997, by Victor Johnson Architect. While the needs of the congregation have changed, this masterplan, shown below, can be a good reference tool.



## Part I - Visioning

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The following is a summary of comments gathered at the congregational and committee workshops. Comments are categorized by the space/function to which they apply.

### **"Vision" of the congregation**

*Members of the congregation were asked to share their "vision" of the masterplan, the campus and the buildings. Below is a compilation of the committee comments. The responses from the congregation survey are at the end of this document.*

#### *Overall Masterplan Comments*

1. The church has made the decision that they will not move from their current location.
2. Overall flexibility of the site and buildings is important.
3. The masterplan must be welcoming, inviting, and comfortable and must promote spirituality.
4. The courtyard, mural, and the wilderness area are important sacred spaces that add to the worship experience. This masterplan should accommodate the church's growth and needs for the next 10 years. Any additional needs that may occur during this time will be addressed thru infilling with programs or technology, such as a video service, etc.
5. The relationship to the neighborhood is important and the church would like to have the opportunity to improve the surroundings of the existing bus stop along Carlisle.
6. A progression from the parking lot into the site is good; spaces get greener and quieter as one move further into the campus. Plantings and landscape are an integral part of the entry procession and experience and should be maintained/enhanced.
7. The congregation is less interested in separating adults and children at the parking lot as they move to their classrooms. Would rather see this happen in the courtyard.
8. Security should be promoted through site planning and building design, buildings should be able to be closeable and lockable by amateurs (no special keys or alarm systems), and more secure edge along the west property line may be a priority
9. The budget of any improvements must be an integral part of the masterplan process and the final design
10. Parking is and will continue to be an issue. Currently the congregation barely copes with the transition between services allowing for parking turnover. A good ratio of parking spaces to attendance on a typical Sunday is: 1 car/1.5 individuals
11. Parking will be the limiting factor in congregational growth and future sanctuary size
12. Signage and wayfinding is important, and could be a solution for the lack of building hierarchy that currently exists
13. Technology is an important aspect of the ministry. Future facilities should be wired to be "technology forward."
14. The distance between the handicap parking and general parking to the sanctuary entry should not be too long to ease the route from car to service for disabled and older people.
15. A centralized workshop would help with the overall maintenance of the campus.

*Natural Environment Comments*

16. The natural environment, both existing and future, is important.
17. The existing courtyard is seen as the “living room rug” for the campus and is an important symbol of the church.
18. The courtyard is important for church fellowship. The wildlife area to the east of the sanctuary is an important connection from the sanctuary, but is rarely used because it is always noisy and frequently too hot or too cold.
19. Preservation of open outdoor space is very important.
20. Access to courtyard for overflow space during functions is very important.
21. Protected area in courtyard would be desirable for outdoor seating; covered from rain/sun, sheltered from wind, etc.

*Built Environment Comments*

22. The “non-churchiness” of the campus is appreciated by the congregation.
23. Future building should be “artistic” and have a hierarchy, specifically to distinguish the sanctuary from other spaces.
24. A hierarchy of building, sanctuary larger than social hall, which would be larger than the offices, etc., is desired.
25. The memorial wall in the west courtyard behind the office building may need to be relocated depending on the final masterplan design.
26. Nice color scheme and good Fung Shui should be employed in new design.

*Sustainability Comments*

27. The church wants to be a leader in both site and building sustainability, and innovative in their approach to the site and building design. There is a strong interest in sustainability with regard to the use of materials and energy consumption. Rainwater capture, photovoltaic, and preserving open space are all desirable.



## Building Specific Considerations

### *Sanctuary*

1. Based on current needs, it seems that a new sanctuary building would be the most beneficial for the congregation. That would leave the existing sanctuary available to be renovated for a new social hall.
2. There is probably little to no sentimental value of the existing sanctuary building with the congregation.
3. If it is determined that a new sanctuary is needed, it should be located close to the north parking lot to enable elderly and handicap individuals easy access to the main worship space, rather than at the back of the site.
4. If a new sanctuary is to be built, an important balance between a sacred vs. generic space needs to be struck. The space should be sacred enough to feel special but "invisible" enough avoid religious archetypes. A connection to nature is a good way to create this balance.
5. If the existing sanctuary would be converted into the social hall, the physical space would be the limiting factor to the number of people who could get together, much like the existing one.
6. There is not a need for a space that could accommodate 700+ people. If one would be needed for a church-wide meeting, an off-site space would be rented.
7. The current sanctuary seats 250, but it feels crowded if more than 80% full. It is anticipated that the membership would stall at 900 at the current location.
8. Currently, 50-75 people attend 3rd (contemporary) service.
9. There are 800 congregation members currently.
10. A future sanctuary should be designed to hold 500 people at absolute maximum, while 350 is a more comfortable maximum to consider.
11. The sanctuary should be equipped with moveable chairs rather than pews, and a cry-room should be in close proximity to the sanctuary.
12. Pre-function space at the sanctuary is severely lacking and is a requirement for future development.
13. A permanent welcome center and a coat room in the vestibule would be preferable.
14. Currently, sound from courtyard travels into sanctuary – function of not having a proper vestibule.
15. A separate chapel that could double as an adult meeting room and RE meeting room is desired.
16. There is a need for window coverings or day lighting control in the sanctuary for A/V presentation and other general use spaces.
17. Enhancing the artwork or other décor could help make the sanctuary feel more "special."
18. A permanent bookstore and gift shop accessible from or near the social hall would be desirable. It would be open only on Sunday and could double as a library, located within main walk path of congregation. A "coffee shop" style break area should be considered, as well, so people could browse, socialize and enjoy refreshment after services.
19. Refrigerated air in lieu of evaporative cooling is desired in the sanctuary.
20. The mural is a very important part of church and is an integral part of the worship experience.
21. Windows in sanctuary are very important because they create connection to outside and nature. However, stained glass would not be desirable because of their connotation to other religious traditions.



22. A transitional space/vestibule is desired before entering the sanctuary. This space can serve many functions, such as the location for the "Welcome Table," storage for the name tags, etc.
23. A contemplative, meditative chapel space would be a desirable addition, located near or adjacent to the sanctuary. The chapel could be used by the Common Ground program, or for small weddings, funerals or more intimate gatherings. Aesthetics would be important to this space. Pin-up area for announcements in centralized gathering area would be useful, as well.

### ***Social Hall***

1. Scheduling of the social hall is difficult, due to the many groups it serves, such as:
  - a. Family Potluck dinners, every Wednesday night that serves 15-30,
  - b. Yoga,
  - c. Friday Painter's Group,
  - d. Square Dancers, who meet every Friday, as well, and have been doing so since the 1960s. This group paid for the dance floor that is currently in the social hall in the early 1990s.
2. A large social hall that can be divided into smaller rooms is desirable.
3. Pre-function space, at the social hall, is severely lacking and a requirement for future development.
4. Acoustics is very important in large social rooms. The current social hall is too loud for people to speak/hear during coffee hour and crowded gatherings.
5. The ceiling in the current social hall could be higher to give a more grand feel and control noise better.
6. The congregation was impressed with the Jewish Community Center meeting space that was used for large church function in the past. This could be a useful model for future spaces.
7. Social activities have been restricted in size and quantity due to the limited size and functionality of the existing social hall. The annual Thanksgiving, Christmas, and new member dinners, typically, push the limit of the number of people that can attend.
8. The social hall should be flexible; to accommodate 300 people seated, and also be divisible into smaller meeting rooms.
9. Audio/visual connections are needed throughout the social hall, whether it is used as a large space or divided into smaller ones.
10. The kitchen is critical to the function of the social hall. It should be in a separate room that is acoustically isolated, sized to accommodate 20± people, and include:
  - a. Significant amount of counter space with cabinet storage,
  - b. Significant power on separate circuits,
  - c. Pantry storage for coffee, lemonade, paper products, etc. (food products are not kept on site except for what is needed for weekly functions),
  - d. Upright refrigerator and freezer,
  - e. Two ovens,
  - f. 6-8 burner stove with griddle capacity,
  - g. Garbage disposal,
  - h. Pass-thru opening, with doors, to the social hall with counter space.
  - i. Additionally, the kitchen should be designed to accommodate three people working in it easily, and needs to be easy to clean.
11. Separate designated storage areas are needed for tables and chairs, decorations and table cloths, china and stemware, and individual committee spaces.
12. A built-in trash and recycling area is desired.

## ***Religious Education***

1. Religious Education (RE) consists primarily of Sunday School and an after school tutoring program.
2. Special events include family night and larger intergenerational events.
3. RE serves infants through college students.
4. Sunday School is broken down by age:
  - a. Infants: 6-10 average attendance
  - b. Toddlers, 2-3 ½ year olds: 10-20 average attendance
    - i. Both of the above classrooms open onto the secure playground and have their own bathroom
  - c. Pre-Kindergarten, 3 ½-5 year olds
  - d. Preschool
    - i. Both of the above classrooms should have their own bathroom and the program is a mixture of curriculum and playtime
  - e. School Age, which currently in different building from younger children
    - i. Kindergarten & 1st Grade
    - ii. 2nd & 3rd Grade
    - iii. 3rd thru 5th Grade
    - iv. Mid-High School
    - v. High School, which averages 15-20 students, has a high level of ownership of their space. Their worship space should be designated for them, and not shared with other groups.
    - vi. College fellowship meets in spaces closer to UNM, rather than at First Unitarian.
5. "Kid's Chapel" is a program that occurs once a month where all ages attend a worship program together on Sunday morning. There could be 50+ children, and a flexible space for a variety of activities is needed.
6. Other RE programs are:
  - a. "Forum," occurs every Sunday during the 1st service in the social hall, where a variety of social topics are discussed. There are usually 20-40 individuals who attend.
  - b. "Common Ground," is a worship service that takes place during the 2nd service in the social hall, where the attendees lead their own worship program and watch and comment on the sermon from the 1st service. It would be desirable if this program could take place in a more sacred space.
7. Coffee and snacks are served in the social hall after each service to promote fellowship. In nice weather, this spills into the courtyard. A separate kitchen is desirable for children's cooking lessons, in addition to the snack functions.
8. A reception desk at the entry to the RE spaces would be desirable.
9. Children often come into sanctuary at beginning or end of Sunday services so a closer connection between RE building and the sanctuary is desired.
10. The day school that currently rents part of the RE building, will have an opportunity to fit within the new campus, but they will not be driving decisions on the masterplan or the program of future buildings.
11. Provisions for the safety of children and the congregation in the event of a lock-down need to be established, with a communication link between all buildings.
12. The existing playground is not crucial to the church's programs and can be decreased as necessary to meet the church's physical needs.
13. A fully enclosed and secure playground is necessary for both the daycare and Sunday School children.

## ***Music Programs***

1. There are two aspects to the music program: choirs and visiting musicians.
2. There are currently 2 choirs: adult and children.
3. The adult choir has approximately 30 individuals and could grow to 40.
4. The adult choir practices Thursday nights in sanctuary and holds other weekday practices occasionally, and performs once or twice a month at the 9:30 and 11:00 Sunday services.
5. Occasionally there will be multiple choirs in a service at same time so flexibility of sanctuary performance space is important.
6. A permanent space in sanctuary for the choir is desired. The size of that space would affect the size of the choir. Currently, they are too tight on platform
7. More flexible/larger space for choir or other music performance would allow for more music programming. There are a variety of music programs each week so bigger, more functional platform would be desirable; the podium should not be fixed, and the ability to move piano off stage or out of way is important.
8. In addition to the choirs, the contemporary music group, which performs each Sunday at 1:00pm, rehearses twice a week, outside the church. Instruments included in that service are: keyboards, drum kit, 2 guitars.
9. For this service, a screen is brought in and set up, and should be built in a future facility. The projector should be ceiling mounted and sound isolated so fans don't disturb service. Rear projection is a possible alternative.
10. The contemporary service needs more light control due to the A/V focus of service (use of projection screens & video). More video could be incorporated in this service if the lighting could be controlled better.
11. A separate multi-purpose room for practices would be desirable, and could also be used for smaller performances or another meeting space. St. John's Methodist Church has a good example of combination choir rehearsal/recital performance space.
12. More equipment storage is needed adjacent to the sanctuary or practice room.
13. A music storage room is needed for the ±20 years of sheet music kept by the church.
14. There are currently 20-30 people attending the small group worship "Common Ground" which occurs in social hall during 2nd service and involves viewing of video of 1st service and discussion. Space is not a limitation to the size of this group.
15. The music program would like a choir room, two offices and designated storage space.
16. The Lutheran church on Spain has a good example of a very functional stage area.

## ***Meeting Spaces***

1. On Sunday mornings all rooms are scheduled, maxing out the facility.
2. Meeting rooms are currently rented to outside groups. If they were larger and wired with the latest technology they would be much easier to rent.
3. Planning for future technology (WiFi, etc.) is important; a conduit should be provided between/within spaces for future wiring.
4. Sound isolation between meeting spaces is very important.
5. Restrooms need to be spread out throughout the facility, especially near meeting rooms that are rented to outside groups.
6. Need various levels of locking for doors for staff priority, rental users, etc.

### ***Staff Offices***

1. Currently, there is a shortage of staff work space, and there is a need for flexible work space that can be shared by overlapping part time staff.
2. Staff offices need to be within sight of front door so staff can monitor door when the receptionist is out.
3. There is a need for a secure safe in office area and drop safe for Sunday offering, key return, etc.
4. The only workroom currently doubles as a lunch room and a conference room, and each function should have their own designated spaces.
5. A large workroom should be centralized near the offices.
6. More staff will be needed in the future, so plan for growth.
7. Staff needs full kitchen rather than a "coffee bar" for their lunchroom, with a sink, refrigerator, dishwasher, and multiple microwave ovens.

### ***Technology and Audio/Visual Considerations***

1. Video production is a future function that should be planned for. This could include simulcast of service, recording of service for replay remotely via internet connection, simulcast of service to other/all buildings/spaces within campus.
2. Currently, recording is done with one fixed camera and shown in cry room but limits how much of the service can be seen. Multiple cameras would be better but would require more staffing and light control
3. Sound booth in sanctuary should be elevated and within room (not in separate booth) so mixer can hear what audience hears.
4. A 16 channel mixer is used in sanctuary at each service.
5. Front speakers would be desirable but in unobtrusive location. Currently, ceiling speakers are fine but don't project speaker/music in a natural way (sound should come from where performer is).
6. Current sound closet is 5x7, but needs to be larger.
7. Video and audio should be hardwired into most spaces (library, cry room, etc.) in the future with 2 way communication between sanctuary and rehearsal/staging space.

### ***Arts & Aesthetics***

1. The sanctuary is a very important space for art because of its value to worship as well as education.
2. Artist receptions have typically occurred after the second service, but with the addition of the third service, the receptions have been discontinued. This is a program the Committee feels strongly should be reinstated.
3. More 3-dimensional art, such as sculpture, could be displayed if there was more space around the perimeter of the sanctuary.
4. A program to promote sculpture could enhance the courtyard.
5. The current hanging system for artwork in the sanctuary is adequate but research of other methods would be good to increase flexibility.
6. Artwork could be added to the social hall to add to the "sacredness" of that space, as well.
7. A designated storage room is needed for secure art storage as well as for miscellaneous display items, podiums, decorations and a ladder.
8. Natural light limits some of the art that can be displayed due to fading/damage. Specific lighting for art, along with day lighting control, such as window coverings, would help.

## Part II – Program Analysis

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Based on evaluation of the compiled input from the congregation, the following descriptions identify the functions, spatial requirements and adjacencies of the associate site and building components.

### ***Sanctuary Building***

- Seating for 350 (optimum) to 400 (maximum)
- Mural relocation
- Vestibule/Pre-function Space
  - “Welcome” center/table
  - Announcements area
- Stage (sectioned for expansion)
- Chapel for 40 people
  - Natural Light
  - Open to Courtyard
- 2 Meeting Rooms, one of which can be the Library
- Minister Preparation Room
- Choir Stage
- Band Stage
- A/V Storage Room
- A/V Booth
- Artwork Accommodation
- Men’s and Women’s Restroom
- Dressing Room/restroom off of one meeting room
- Choir Practice Room
- Music Storage Room
- Music equipment Storage
- 1 office for music director
- Worship Committee Storage
- Art Storage
- Chair Storage
- Coffee Bar

### ***Social Hall***

- Seating for 300
- Pre-Function space
- Open to Courtyard
- Book Store/Gift Shop/Coffee Service
- Storage
  - Tables and Chairs
  - Dishes/Silverware/Linens
- Divisible into smaller meeting rooms, specifically for “Forum” and “Common Ground”
- Kitchen and Pantry
- Built-In Trash/Recycling Area

### ***Religious Education***

- Reception Area
- Kid's Chapel
- Close Connection to Sanctuary
- 10 classrooms (can be part of existing RE building)
- Outdoor play and gathering areas

### ***Meeting Space***

- Six classrooms/meeting rooms
- Centralized bathrooms

### ***Staff Space***

- Individual Offices close to front door of church offices
- Lunchroom with Kitchen
- Workroom
- Office expansion for future staff (Should be double the existing office space including space for 3 ministers, 2 RE, open office with cubicles)

### ***Parking***

- Ratio that works for the existing facilities: 1 car per 1.5 people
- Bicycle racks
- Motorcycle and scooter parking

## Part III – Program Summary

<b>SANCTUARY BUILDING</b>	People/Qty.	SF Each	Area	Load	Total
Seating for 350-400	350	15	5,250	20%	6,300
Vestibule/Pre-function space	1	1,200	1,200	20%	1,440
Chapel for 40	40	15	600	20%	720
Meeting room	1	180	180	20%	216
Dressing room/restroom	1	100	100	20%	120
Library	1	180	180	20%	216
Minister preparation room	1	80	80	20%	96
Choir Stage	1	200	200	20%	240
Band Stage	1	200	200	20%	240
A/V storage room	1	50	50	20%	60
A/V booth	1	80	80	20%	96
Office for music director	1	150	150	20%	180
Men's restrooms	1	240	240	20%	288
Women's Restroom	1	240	240	20%	288
Chair storage	1	200	200	20%	240
Choir practice room	1	300	300	20%	360
Music storage room	1	120	120	20%	144
Music equipment storage	1	120	120	20%	144
Worship committee storage	1	120	120	20%	144
Art storage	1	120	120	20%	144
Coffee bar	1	80	80	20%	96
<b>Subtotals</b>			9,810		<b>11,772</b>

<b>SOCIAL HALL</b>	People/Qty.	SF Each	Area	Load	Total
Seating for 300	300	15	4,500	20%	5,400
Pre-function space	1	600	600	20%	720
Storage - tables and chairs	1	200	200	20%	240
Storage - dishes / silverware / linens	1	120	120	20%	144
Kitchen and pantry	1	600	600	20%	720
Gift Shop/Book Store	1	100	100	20%	120
Build-in trash / recycling area	1	80	80	20%	96
<b>Subtotals</b>			6,200		<b>7,440</b>

<b>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</b>	People/Qty.	SF Each	Area	Load	Total
Reception area	1	300	300	40%	420
Kid's chapel	1	300	300	40%	420
Classrooms (can be part of existing RE bldg )	10	400	4,000	40%	5,600
<b>Subtotals</b>			4,600		<b>6,440</b>

<b>MEETING SPACE</b>	People/Qty.	SF Each	Area	Load	Total
Classrooms / meeting rooms	6	200	1,200	40%	1,680
Centralized bathrooms	2	240	480	40%	672
<b>Subtotals</b>			1,680		<b>2,352</b>

<b>STAFF SPACE</b>	People/Qty.	SF Each	Area	Load	Total
Lunchroom with kitchen	1	200	200	40%	280
Workroom	1	200	200	40%	280
Office expansion for future staff	1	2,500	2,500	40%	3,500
<b>Subtotals</b>			0		<b>4,060</b>

<b>TOTAL SPACES</b>					<b>32,064</b>

## Appendix 1: Congregational Survey Results

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Below is a compilation of the results from the congregation surveys distributed on June 7, 2009.

### *Question 1: What is your "vision" of the church and the church campus?*

1. I've been a member of First Unitarian since 1999 -- 10 years! What drew me to the church was a memory from childhood of having attended a concert there. I remembered the art and all the windows. I was probably 9 years old (this would've been in the late 1960's). And when I started to look for a church for my own family, I was drawn to the memory of, "...that church of light and art." You spoke of transparency -- and how true! The interior space I was drawn to, even as a kid, reflected a sacred space that spoke to my values! I still appreciate that about our church.
2. Light-beauty. Windows that allow looking up and out, a visible garden to enhance.
3. Open, light, informed by art. A synergy with nature.
4. Lots of garden, an outside worship space, lots of windows and sunshine inside. Front mural and cloth art be kept. Wood, color, warmth inside.
5. Welcoming Congregation. Would like to see a less industrial/school look for the sanctuary. Sanctuary needs a better aesthetic, less of 70's hippy church. There are some attractive Unitarian churches- not so industrial. Unitarian does not mean dumpy/frumpy.
6. 19 year member- It should reflect an open-minded to all that reflects our ministry through our music, active concern for our natural environment, as well as through wisdom from many sources through words. It should be of simple modern style easy to navigate and flexible to use. I am less concerned about "sacred space" which depends on what happens there. It should be as green as possible.
7. Environmentally sustainable preserve the mural, preserve as much "green space" around building if possible.
8. Increase/ keep green. I love the view.
9. My vision is focusing more "growth energy" on New Mexico (branches) than 900 members in ABQ, 300 in 8-10 branches, 4 FTE ministries. Much larger RE program. Worship opportunities on days besides Sunday.
10. Keeping courtyard space. Having a sanctuary with lots of light (natural and artificial for evening events etc.). A welcoming easily accessible space for wheelchairs and others needing walkers or other help. Bigger open rooms for meetings, children and workshops.
11. An area that promotes openness and has a lot of light, large enough to accommodate all need of people.
12. Quite and welcoming.
13. Open and welcoming- connecting with humans. Open gathering space for connections like the courtyard with natural lighting. Preservation of the view of the nature habitat from the seats in the sanctuary. I see the sanctuary opening upwards to accommodate more participation in services like a balcony.
14. Really nice now, but too small.
15. Bright open, appealing accessible.
16. Enough rooms for meetings such as common groups, convenient group, etc, Things are so tight now.



17. My dream is that we could acquire the building to the south but this may be just a fantasy, or is it?
18. I envision our church and campus as a true "sanctuary" for our members and guests. And I envision also our church becoming a model and example of sustainability and "green" building and operation for the whole Albuquerque & New Mexico area.
19. A facility that vigorously builds community and that sustains community.
20. The part of the church campus I like is the garden in the courtyard with the trees and flowers. I also love the open clear glass window on the east, open to the front garden.
21. Continue and support a SW setting, avoid anything that supports mildew and mold.
22. Green welcome open, warm. Sunny- gathering spaces for all generations rooms for multi faceted learning and gathering. Smaller spaces for covenant type meetings. Mediation space. Social hall- needs to fit more easily. Open transparent, peaceful.
23. Church supports diverse activities for all generations. Campus provides space for a variety of activities from worship to small groups to large social gatherings and musical events.
24. Free flow of movement around a center- the tree or garden that will replace it and also would like to see any new building or renovations be as "green" as possible- LEED certified.
25. I would like to see the church be/continue to be environmentally aware in its practices. I would like to preserve space for la Puerta de Los Ninas
26. "Inceptum Loop" ??

***Question 2: How do the current facilities support the congregational "vision" and function for the day to day activities of the church?***

1. However, in terms of the exterior, everything about it, to me, says, "old". (Boy, I hope this isn't a metaphor... :) Not old as in, retro, but just old and outdated. I would love to see a facade that reflects a church of light and art; openness -- to all peoples, ideas, to change. We are known as a progressive religion and yet our structure does not say, "Progressive!" First Unitarian, on the outside, has looked the same since I was nine years old (at least). Yet, there are some architectural structures, from 60 years ago or more, which even today seem "modern" (I think there is a Unitarian church somewhere built by Frank Lloyd Wright).
2. Beautifully. Opening to a center gathering area, but cramped it seems.
3. Love the courtyard as a gathering place. Lots of RE space.
4. The mural needs to be preserved and protected and easily available and the wordless expression of our values and intentions for everyone. The social hall serves many functions constantly. For some it is adequate but not for larger groups, especially social occasions intended for the whole church. There is not enough office space or small rooms for meetings, covenant groups, etc.
5. There is a variety of meeting spaces, but they need to be brighter and more welcoming.
6. The layout of the sanctuary- out to courtyard- to social hall is a nice flow. Keeping that arrangement would be valuable. Using the sanctuary for exhibits is valuable. One more additional exhibit space would be useful in the super creative congregation community.
7. Nice facility for 550 members- is now a major impediment to growth. Staffing is probably just as much an impediment to growth.

8. In New Mexico our courtyard allows us to have more space to commune and gather and get places. Having more than one playground allows us to group children according to needs, safety, age, and let them run free safely. Chairs in sanctuary are good for flexibility.
9. The courtyard functions as a gathering place. The social hall is somewhat small. No handicap restrooms in sanctuary. Doors not ADA compliant.
10. I understand that meeting rooms are at a premium especially on Sunday and it is difficult to provide space for all of our exciting programs. The after school program room does not appear to be used by the office for scheduling meetings.
11. The easy flow from the social hall to sanctuary is very good. The mural is great. Art on the walls is good. Light; good. It's really very nice now, though too small. Don't screw it up.
12. Just barely- not enough "room" for small group meetings especially on Sunday and evenings.
13. Good process for booking rooms, space is the issue.
14. It is adequate but will need to be expanded as the church grows. The sanctuary must be enlarged. In the past there have been many plans proposed, none of them adequate. Perhaps we need to look at the extreme paradigm.
15. Our "open and accepting" sanctuary supports our vision. The faculty is generally functional but we are outgrowing it and need more space and more meeting rooms in order to continue to "invite" participation.
16. Moderately well in spiritual space inadequately in community/social space.
17. The current facilities seem open to nature, which I feel Unitarianism should always be.
18. Give a community garden noticeable space where water, etc are available.
19. Light mural- Windows- art. Available- open. We meet, gather- love grow and squish.
20. Most facilities seem to be heavily used. Sanctuary is barely adequate; other spaces- there need to be more of them. Sanctuary murals and east windows must be preserved in any plan.
21. The sanctuary is wonderfully open- I'd like to see a more usable foyer so the welcome table (and chatter) is out of the sanctuary.

***Question 3: What remedies and additional spaces are needed for the immediate and long term support of church's function and growth?***

1. In terms of the layout and facilities, the space for the older RE kids -- mid/high -- is pretty bad; I would say the <<La Amikoj's>> space is nearly dilapidated! Since our church vision is to have more youth and more outreach, can we make that space more inviting? Also, as a very shy member, 10 years ago, walking those few paces over to the social hall to meet people, was a few paces too many. From a "marketing" point of view -- is there a way to segue the social space to the sanctuary? Again, to make it more inviting; we are after all, a welcoming congregation!
2. I would like acoustic space in the sanctuary to be considered, along with, perhaps, a space for musicians and choir,
3. Need for additional parking. Definite facilitation of art- human creations- that use and augment natural beauty.
4. Wish list: more land and larger kitchen.
5. A place aside from the social hall for Sunday forum and common grounds. A place to eat meals near a dishwasher so we don't need paper plates each time.

6. A larger sanctuary and meeting hall, more classrooms and meeting rooms. Better furnished meeting rooms. A less cluttered/sloppy/ dumping ground look for classrooms. Update storage. Make the space with clean lines. Use lots of natural wood, less white blank walls.
7. I have limited knowledge of RE space needs. If La Puerta had its own kitchen the present kitchen "old kitchen" could be used for other purposes, some reception facilities should remain. Acoustics need to be carefully considered. A crowd in the social hall is inaudible sound wise. Light, especially NM sunshine should carefully used. Please avoid the glare of light directly in your eyes as now from over the mural. However, we need to see nature's gifts here and there from the inside.
8. As above, larger and brighter meeting spaces. More clearly marked and welcoming entrances to the building.
9. The focus on "front-back" is mediated by the mural, and the choir layout. This is practical- but not maximally connecting. Can a more circular space be created that will be practical.
10. Office space is grossly inadequate. We should look at more telecommuting, but that is top priority in my book. Relieving overcrowding in sanctuary is high priority. 3rd service should be continued to help this. I've heard meeting space is inadequate I know this will never happen unless I donate money, but I think a modern chapel would help 3rd service and common ground and open a new dimension in congregational life. I am not looking forward to spending millions on a social hall. We should rent for large events, renovate to make social hall more efficient perhaps. Aesthetically, I would like more of a courtyard/plaza feel to the campus.
11. Bigger Sanctuary. Bigger office space. Bigger social hall area. Doorways and doors which are more accommodating and not heavy for handicap access. A safe handicap access to "stage" area. Bigger lounge for families to use for restless children.
12. Larger sanctuary and social hall. ADA compliant throughout including playground equipment.
13. Raise the sanctuary roof- install a balcony and open up the view of the mountains and the sky. I would like to preserve our connection with La Puerta and wonder about the usefulness of our empty space/lot. Perhaps building the child care center there would open our connection to the Alta Monte neighborhood and interaction with that area. It has funny accessibility another possibility is to move the parking lot to that area and expanding into our current parking lot.
14. Sanctuary for 400-500. Allow for increasing, use social hall to add space.
15. I think we should buy back the ARC building. I think we need to develop the vacant lot on the southwest corner. We should make the campus accessible from the south as well as the north.
16. Spaces which accommodate room with tables for meetings. Rooms with comfy chairs/ couches for convenient groups.
17. Expand the sanctuary but we need to remember that the mural can be moved.
18. A large social hall, "expanded" sanctuary, more rooms for small group meetings. More use of alternate and renewable resources, solar hot water and good conservation, insulation energy saving and recycling.
19. Larger social hall and expanded sanctuary.
20. A dedicated space for the choir so we don't have to get up and down. 2. Modernized rooms for evening classes and activities, perhaps with additional restrooms.

21. We may need more space, meeting rooms and a larger sanctuary, but I hope the spaces are always connected to the outer world of nature and vegetation. A fountain would be a nice addition.
22. Kitchen to serve more- Social hall life. Classrooms, Meditation, Library- more accessible. Office Space- struggling. Tech space, RE Space. Food garden, growth space.
23. Additional meeting spaces. Additional office spaces. Social hall, preferably multi-use.
24. The meeting room could be much more inviting, with big windows to open them up. I'd also like to see a small mediation room or chapel that's open for daily use. A ramp to the doors would be helpful and a truly handicapped bathroom.
25. I've always disliked the appearance of the slide screen in the front of the Sanctuary - unattractive, hiding the mural, suggesting a lecture instead of a more spiritual service. However, last week I saw the advantage of adding visuals both to your presentation and to Christine's. Would there be a way to build in a screen, perhaps in a box on top of the mural, so that it could be permanent and unobtrusive unless needed, and then so that it wouldn't hide the mural? First United Methodist (4th and Coal downtown) has two screens under cover on the walls on either side of the chancel in the cross-shaped sanctuary. We probably won't have those walls, but if we are to rebuild, we should find a more attractive, less expedient means to provide one or more screens.
26. Sound proof indoor space for mediation.

## Appendix 2: Congregational Input Results

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Below is a compilation of the results from a congregation meeting on June 7, 2009.

1. Spaces for a variety of community groups- Social Justice Mission.
2. Durability, sustainability, and energy conservation. (Generation)
3. Natural light, an open space with a view.
4. More organization to reduce clutter at the stage. Make it bigger and better.
5. More restroom facilities and classroom support.
6. Improve street image so people know it is a church, not a bank.
7. Maintain landscape and also be open to the future improvements, like a water feature in courtyard.
8. Make meeting rooms welcoming, congenial, comfortable and user friendly.
9. Space should build community bringing social community together with spiritual community.
10. Consider light and glare control while emphasizing daylighting.
11. Consider options for acoustics so that they include all.
12. Indoor/outdoor meditation space with room for thirty people, (acoustics).
13. Including a wild life habitat will have numerous benefits both personal and for the community.
14. Integrate indoors with outdoors.
15. Expand social hall and meeting spaces, over all appropriate support space.
16. Play space for children.
17. Organization and campus circulation should include a direct route but also consider contemplative space along the path.
18. Better access to religious education and daycare to function better without interfering with daycare.
19. Consider a two-story building.
20. Consider additional land.
21. Balance with wild life habitat as expand to the east.
22. Balance natural light and sun control with Sandia Mountain view.
23. Incorporate use of natural and organic materials.
24. Adequate support space for multi-use rooms.
25. Kitchen should be near social and community rooms.
26. Performances in sanctuary.
27. South entrance should be improved.
28. Maintain intimacy of a community while supporting growth of this close knit group.
29. Need better office space to attract and retain staff.
30. Consider a large retractable roof.
31. Organized circulation and access for all, including handicapped.
32. Inviting transition from parking to the heart of campus.
33. Congregation comes from all over the metro area, there should be no trend favoring one part of Albuquerque.
34. Connect playground and religious education access to rest of campus.
35. What is our budget?
36. Incorporate current audio/visual technology and project to the other spaces on or off site.
37. Connection to other congregations.