

Living Stones Task Force - Ebenezer Annual Report 2012 Submitted by Andrea Tolzmann

Members

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Purpose

The purpose of the task force is captured in the LSTF Mission: *The Living Stones Task Force will investigate, evaluate and communicate opportunities for our building and facilities that strengthen and enable the congregational members and friends to provide the foundation for the mission and ministries of Ebenezer Lutheran Church.*

Accomplishments

- Meetings. The task force has been meeting on a regular basis since Sept. 2010 to consider the long-term ability of the church's physical infrastructure to support ministries and make recommendations regarding options for the future.
- Mission Statement. "The Living Stones Task Force will investigate, evaluate and communicate opportunities for our building and facilities that strengthen and enable the congregational members and friends to provide the foundation for the mission and ministries of Ebenezer Lutheran Church."
- Value Statements. Through various exercises, we identified four Value Statements, by which all options will be assessed. Options should...
 - Functionally support the current and future ministries and community uses
 - Be financially sustainable for medium and long term
 - Accommodate multiple uses
 - Maintain accessibility, inclusion, engagement and aesthetics
- Gather/Review/Information. The task force reviewed many resources to become informed including: 2009 Building Evaluation Report, Ebenezer Congregational Profile, feedback from Pastor Bill Huchison (facilitated two council discussions on the future of the building), list of current, past, and potential future uses of the building, which included soliciting feedback from the congregation, tour of the entire building, led by Andy Halvorson.
- Ebenezer Ministries Facilities Use Analysis. The development of a program for current utilization of space of Ebenezer Lutheran Church was completed. This document has been reviewed and analyzed to help LSTF identify where and how space is being used throughout the church buildings.
- Andersonville/Edgewater Area Market Demand for Large Space Assessment. Targeted interviews with business developers and business owners in the community to assess Ebenezer's potential for outreach in the neighborhood.
- Tax/Legal Status. We have investigated requirements and restrictions for Ebenezer as a nonprofit entity.
- Program and Options Report. The program for the building consists of a variety of tiered options to be considered by the Ebenezer Lutheran Church Council and Congregation. Organized along an order of magnitude continuum, the options focus on three levels of change or intervention: Maintain and Makeover, Enhance and Remodel, and Transform and Reconstruct. Each level seeks to provide a variety of accessible and flexible spaces that will support the mission of the Church now and into the future. Continuing maintenance work is required for the building under each of the options presented. Deferred maintenance is an urgent need which needs to be addressed soon to prevent further deterioration and increased repair costs.

Final Goals

- Review/analyze research of facilities use analysis document
- Consult with community professionals for market research information
- Identify final space options (using Value Statements)
- Identify cost/benefits/implications for Program and Options
- Present Program and Options report to Council
- Present recommendations to congregation