

New Ground  
Summaries of initial/important steps for each focus group from 9.21  
Commitments to each of the four focus groups  
(in alpha order)

## 1. Finding New Space

*Summary of proposed ideas:*

- Find a realtor to help us find property
- Investigate types of properties available south of the river
- Think “outside the box”: be open to any possibility
- Faith communities that worship on a different Sabbath: Jewish, Muslim, Seventh Day Adventist for instance
- Government offices aren’t used on Sundays
- Community Centers
- Faith Communities with too much building
- Theatres
- Retirement communities with chapels or extra space
- Community organizations we could partner with in property and mission
- Club buildings (Elks, Rotary, Kiwanis, etc)
- Specifically noticed empty local properties:  
Paper Warehouse  
Rainbow on Cedar
- When driving around, pay attention to local spaces
- Refer to geographical location of current members
- Use geographic/demographic tool to learn of potential new members (eg Missioninsite: **missioninsite.com**) to determine locations
- Evaluate short- and long-term need (coordinate with other groups)
- Study all options
- Determine essential space needs, short- and long-term, taking into account future ministry foci
- Location tied directly to mission: whom do we serve
- What fits our budget (coordinate with Stewardship focus)
- Interim location easy to find for visitors

*Initial Commitments:*

Bob Hatch  
Joe Standal  
Jack Becker  
Laurie Deibert  
Debbie Rezmer

## **2. Healthy Stewardship**

*Summary of proposed ideas:*

- Stewardship campaign in support of our mission
- Talk about tithing and giving; address fear of scarcity
- Turn negative thinking about money to more positive ideas; how do we talk about it differently; awareness of our relationship with money
- Information: more and regular sharing about finances. How do we present this? Breakdowns on how gifts are used.
- Have ways to make giving more automatic/easier such as paying online, bank drafts
- Using gifts in addition to money; sign up sheets for different aspects of the ministry
- Advertising, social media bring awareness that we are here
- Partner with other congregations for outreach such as SMOC (Single Moms' Oil Change); share outreach ideas and methods
- Determine sustainability for locations, ministries
- Outside sources of funding ministries (grants)
- Set some time-lines for each of our tasks
- Holistic personal and community values and practices

*Initial commitments:*

Nancy Haddorf  
Darla Standal

### **3. Identity and Mission**

#### *Summary of proposed ideas:*

Get the word out about who we are, our kind of church; discover kindred spirits in our area  
Identify our worship and ministry needs (who are we really?)  
Be creative: how are we a community where community comes first?  
How do we also meet individual needs within community?  
List existing missions vis à vis potential ministries that fit our abilities  
Use survey or other tool to discover what members of SOJ feel are important areas of mission; how we express our values in mission  
Meeting needs of congregation for worship/education/contemplation and consider individual needs as well  
Move from fear to faith  
In prayer and conversation identify who we are here to serve and how we use our gifts to serve  
Make sure our openness comes through in our mission  
Coordinate with those planning/researching long-term space  
Research opportunities for service  
Find agreement about how to state our mission clearly and simply  
Decide which social justice issues we are drawn to, align with

#### *Initial Commitments:*

Verlyn and Kay Hemmen  
Monica Ruth Hatch  
Diane Allmann  
Katy McFall  
Jan Norman

### **4. Sale of Property**

#### *Summary of proposed ideas:*

Find realtor(s)  
Assess property and building values: three assessments  
Define all the options we have: cost to raze the building, landscape and build a new building, temporary fix and sell, sell as is

Contact person/agency that owns land next door: sell or lease with that land

Check with developer across the road to determine their interest in our property

Ask how our location helps or serves our mission

Prayer vigil to bless this space and give thanks for how lives have been changed here

Discern realistically what we owe vis à vis what the property is worth

*Initial Commitments:*

Darlene Antony

Jim Allmann

Jennifer Maxa