



Future Search 2024: Paths to Explore

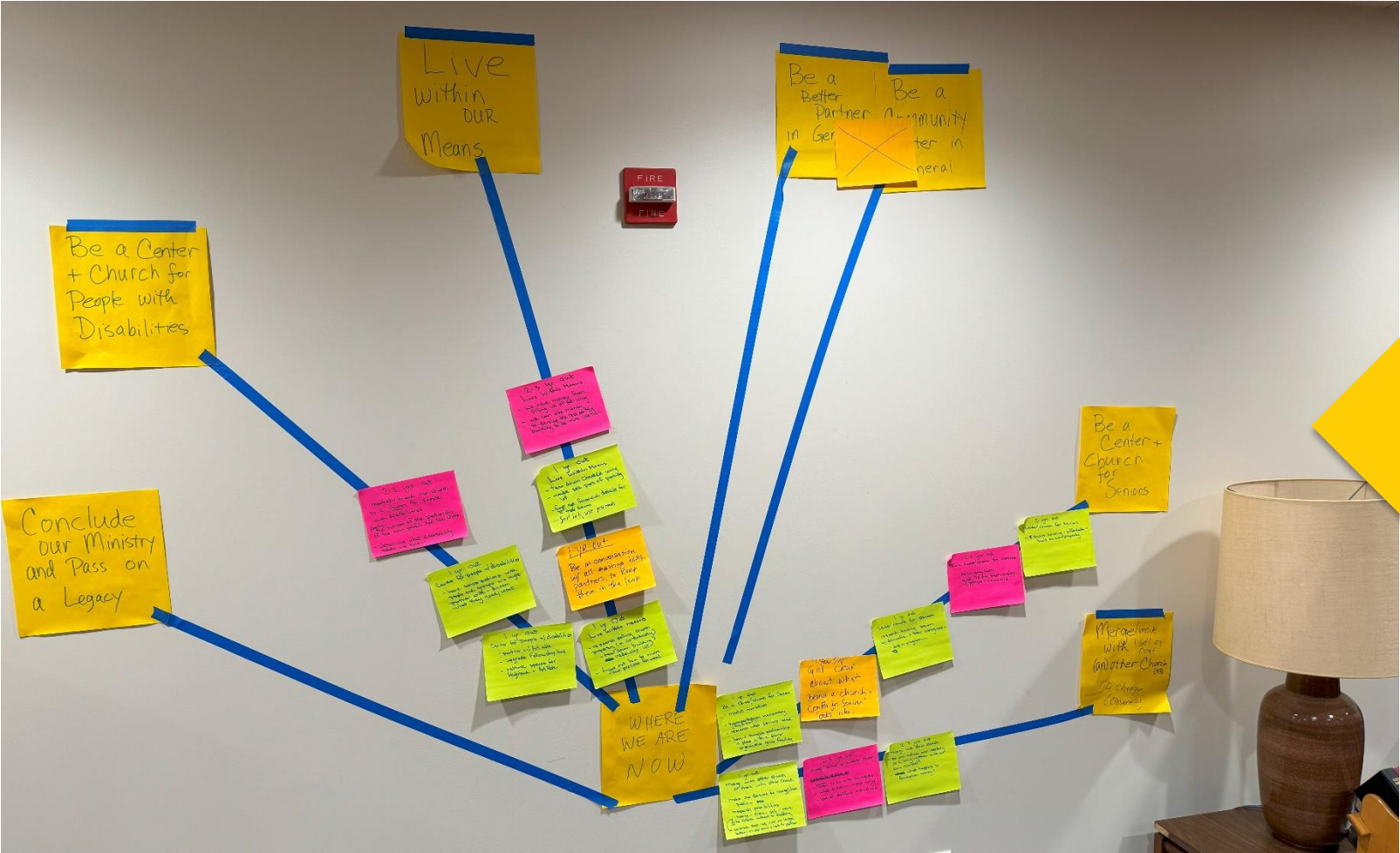
Presented on behalf of the FHC Executive Board:

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What is the Future Search Process?

- **A group discernment process** that began in 3 Executive Board meetings and now involves the whole church in discerning what God is calling FHC to be and do in the future.
- **November 2023 – Recent Past:** We looked at what we learned in the last 3 ½ years through experiences and activities like Crossroads, COVID-19 pandemic response, new building partnerships/rentals, a charrette planning process with community organizations, the Sabbatical time, etc.
- **December 2023 – Present Reality:** We developed a snapshot of what we know of our reality right now, using 2023 and 2024 budget information, Foundation information, current state of the world and how it's affecting churches' viability: threats, opportunities.
- **January 2024 – Possible Futures:** Taking the above findings, Rev. Rick generated five possible scenarios that we worked through and produced the four presented today.

Future Search Process



In our final session, we identified the “Possible Futures” via a structured dialogue facilitated by Mark Miazga and Rev. Rick.

Four Paths to Explore

Live
within
OUR
Means

Be a Center
+ Church for
People with
Disabilities

Be a
Center +
Church
for
Seniors

Merge/move
with ^{sell or}
^{rent}
(an) other Church
(es)
I.D. change
(closure?)

- These are the four potential paths we are recommending for further exploration
- Note: we may decide to combine some of these paths, as they may overlap.

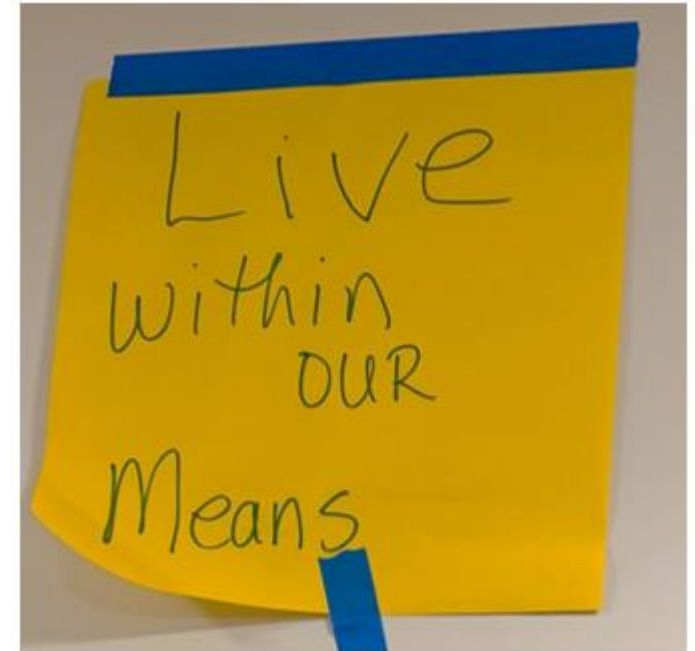
“Live Within Our Means”

What this means in principle:

Find ways to significantly reduce our potential current/future expenses, most of which are related to our building. This would reduce the financial risks that might prevent us from operating as a church in the long-term.

How we might do this:

- Tear down the education wing; potentially, sell the property it is on to fund this.
- Sell another section of the parking lot
- Tear down the entire building, re-build a smaller church building
- Tear down the entire building, redevelop the lot in a different way
- Sell the entire property



“Be a Church and Center to Serve People with Disabilities”



What this means in principle:

Refocus our church’s mission to use our building to provide services to the disability community. This may entail repositioning us as both a church *and* a community center dedicated to this specific population.

How we might do this:

- Partner with **ArtAble**, dedicate a large portion of building to their mission of Art Therapy Programming for special needs community.
- Create more partnerships like Highland Friendship Club to use our building to serve people with disabilities.
- Identify services needed by this community that aren’t being met; Re-brand ourselves as a church and center for people with all kinds of disabilities.
- Change our facility and staffing to serve this community (e.g. What could be made more accessible? Hire building manager; add cleaning days/week?)
- Change funding model (e.g. Rent? Grants? Payment for services?)



“Be a Church and Center to Serve Seniors (and Caregivers)”



What this means in principle:

Refocus our church’s mission to use our building to provide services to the senior community. This may entail repositioning us as both a church and a community center dedicated to this specific population.

How we might do this:

- Partner with one or more senior service orgs, dedicate a large portion of building to serving this community (e.g., focus on seniors w/ memory issues)
- Change facility and staffing to serve this mission (e.g. % of building to dedicate? Hire building or activities staff? Buy bus for transportation?)
- Identify services needed by this community that are unmet. Re-brand.
- Re-think funding; are there new sources of revenue to fund this (e.g. Rent? Grants? Payment for services?)
- Tear down, redevelop land for senior housing



“Merge, Sell, Partner, or Rent Space to/from Another Church(es)”

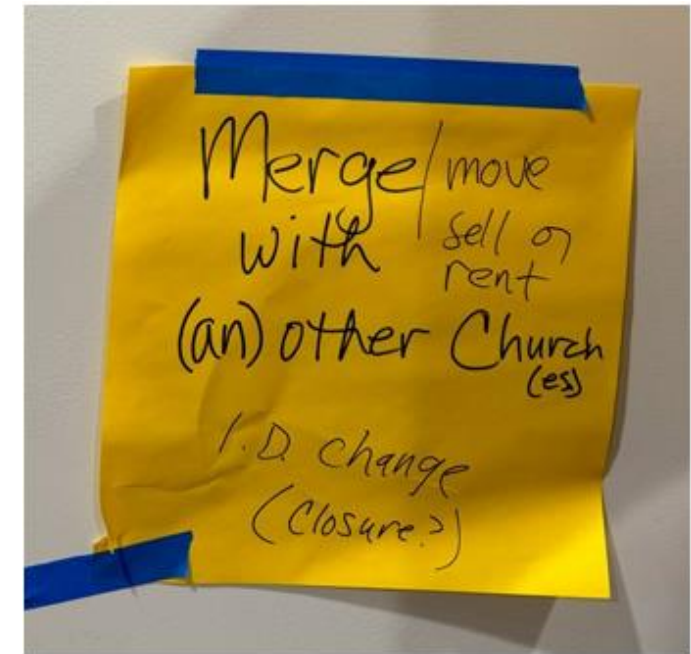


What this means in principle:

Falcon Heights Church is more than just our building. Talk to other local churches about potentially merging, partnering, renting/sharing space in their church, or having them do the same but coming into our church.

How we might do this:

- Look to local churches (e.g. St. Anthony Park UCC; New Life Presbyterian (on Larpenteur; or others) to explore their current state, what are their needs and interest in such a possibility?
- Embrace the idea that we can no longer operate on our own and look to partner
- One result of this might be that we sell our church property to do so. We'd need to decide what to do with our assets (including the Foundation).
- Need to consider what are the staffing implications of this new scenario? What are the implications for our identity as a church?



Unknowns / Questions we'd need answer

- How much would it cost to tear down the education wing (and mend building accordingly)?
- If we tore it down, could we sell that property, and at what value?
- If we tore down the Education Wing, can we renovate other parts of our church (e.g. Fellowship Hall/basement) to serve other needs?
- If we don't sell the Ed. Wing - how can we fund \$375,000 to "secure the envelope" (and do tuckpointing required on chimney too)
- Can we profitably sell another section of the parking lot (sewer issue in one section might make this cost-prohibitive)?
- Is ArtAble a viable partner for us? Can they pay us rent, and how much? What else would we need to invest (in building/other ways) to make this viable?
- Is there opportunity to partner more/again with Lyngblosten, a partner with whom we've worked closely in the past?
- Are there restrictions from the city that might prevent us from doing any of this?
- Are there funding sources (e.g., grants, government funds) that might help make this possible?
- What type of future worshipping body will we be in the long term?

Planning for the Year Ahead

- **For the next 90 Days...**
 - Task Forces work to answer as many of the “unknowns/questions” as possible
 - We need your help! Let us know your interest (or we’ll recruit you!)
- **April 20 (Saturday) – All-Congregation “Engaging the Future” Meeting Part 1**
 - Share what we’ve learned, dialogue in facilitated small groups, narrow down potential paths
- **May 18 (Saturday) – All-Congregation “Engaging the Future” Meeting Part 2**
 - Choose and commit to a path (final path may be a combination of options)
- **Rest of 2024 (and beyond)**
 - June- Sep: Partnerships and Planning
 - Oct – Dec: Implementation
 - Jan – Forward: Evaluation and Course Corrections



Thank You!