

Heritage Campus Renewal Project June 1 Update

Several years ago, our congregation participated in a process to discern what God wants from our faith community. That process led to three main goals for the church, including:

AUMC Goal #3: Mission outreach to our Hispanic, immigrant and low-income neighbors at our Heritage Campus, leading to potential development of a faith community.

AUMC has established ministries to the community around the Heritage Campus, including the food distribution, clothing closet and tutoring programs. Despite the presence of the tenant congregations (Annandale Spanish Seventh-Day Adventist Church and New Light UMC), the campus is underutilized and not providing enough revenue to support the operating costs.

At the same time, Just Neighbors, a non-profit ministry of the Arlington District of the United Methodist Church, has been looking for a new headquarters location and a way to reconnect with its church roots. Just Neighbors' mission is to provide immigrant legal services to low-income immigrants and refugees of all faiths and nationalities.

As a result, a partnership between Just Neighbors and AUMC has been formed. The sanctuary at the Heritage Campus will be repurposed to provide office space for Just Neighbors. This partnership will enhance the services currently provided to the community as well as provide new volunteer service opportunities for AUMC. As we work together to help our neighbors move from dependence to independence, we have the opportunity to build relationships and grow our community together.

Funding

The merger with Immanuel UMC in 2012 not only brought with it the property on Heritage Drive but a parsonage as well. The parsonage was rented until February of this year and has now been sold. The proceeds from the sale will be used to pay for some capital improvements at the main campus and Ardfour Lane parsonage, and fund the Heritage Campus renovation. In addition, \$100,000 has been put in reserve for future repairs and maintenance of AUMC facilities. Just Neighbors is contributing \$30,000 towards the renovation.

Where are we now?

- Initial discussions with Just Neighbors began in January.
- Architectural design was completed by Amanda Witkowski, architect and AUMC member.
- An engineering firm is currently working on the mechanical, electrical and plumbing design.
- We expect to file for a walk-through permit on June 14.
- The Request For Proposal (RFP) will be submitted to three bidders on June 14.
- Construction potentially will begin in early July.
- Targeted completion of Phase 1 is mid-to-late August.

What's next?

A second phase of renovation will include the creation of a new worship space (which will also serve as a multi-purpose room) and ADA compliance on entrances to the downstairs. Other renovations are being considered and will depend on costs and priorities. These include redesign of the kitchen and welcome area, air conditioning for the fellowship hall, additional parking and new playground equipment.

What's in it for AUMC and you?

Fully utilizing our Heritage Campus will help us to expand our ministries to the local community. It will also produce revenue that will significantly contribute to the bottom line of the church. New opportunities for volunteering will also be presented.

The first volunteer opportunities will be:

- June 12, 2 p.m. – help with the demolition of some walls in the downstairs area, grounds cleanup, cleaning out storage areas and sorting materials for keep/use/discard
- Early July (TBD) – preparation of the sanctuary for renovation

Other things to know

If you are interested in one of the 4- or 6-foot beautiful oak pews from the sanctuary, they will be available in early July. There is also an organ, several wooden tables, a piano and wooden chairs. Please contact Erin McKenney at 703-403-1742 if you are interested in any of these items.