

St. John's Master Planning Input Sessions: What you told us about our building

Update: Fall 2021

Over 50 members met in seven input sessions in summer 2021 where the Master Planning Team provided a review of the master plan created in 2019 and gathered congregants' current views about the St. John's building. Here is a [link to the PowerPoint presentation](#) about the master plan review.

The first question discussed during the input sessions was:

Why does the St. John's building matter? Here's what congregants expressed:

- St. John's is our home, where we gather as a caring community.
- Our building represents us - our values, identity and beliefs.
- Our sanctuary is a sacred place that fosters spiritual reflection. The beauty of the space itself impacts and inspires us as individuals and as community.
- The mid-century modern design and aesthetics of our sanctuary are an important artistic contribution to the community and should be preserved for future generations.

It was important to discuss **How has COVID impacted our perspective about our building.**

- We have been reminded by the experience of the pandemic that our building is a place we value in order to be together as community.
- Newcomers need to be with us in our sacred and inspiring space.
- Some aspects of the building are more important to address now, because of our experiences with the pandemic. For example:
 - audio-visual improvements,
 - HVAC/circulation,
 - connecting our indoor and outdoor spaces,
 - improving the environmental impact of our building,
 - making our spaces more flexible.
- The events of 2020-2021 lead us to question how best we can use our building to address racial justice.

What are some key priorities for our building restoration and regeneration? Here's what congregants shared:

- Maintain the aesthetics while making improvements
- Reflect the 7th principle in our improvements
- Make our space more friendly and welcoming for newcomers and renters
- Reflect the spirit of St. John's by doing a quality job with our building improvements and maintaining our beautiful building for the future.
- Improve spaces for all activities including children & youth
- Address accessibility issues such as access to multiple levels, restrooms, audio/visual access
- Improve the kitchen
- Address air quality and safety

Moving forward in 2022

- The Master Planning Team loved your enthusiastic sharing of feedback about the master plan! We took detailed verbatim notes of more than one hundred comments that you offered.
- The detailed feedback has been shared with the architect who will create a refinement of the master plan for our building.
- The Master Plan Refinement Process will include conversations with you about our priorities for 2022 and beyond for the restoration and regeneration of our building. Together we will identify the priorities that we **MUST DO** as well as what we **WANT TO DO** to live fully into our vision for St. John's.

You may always reach out to the Master Planning Team with questions by contacting Team leader Matt Cowperthwait, Cliff Shisler, Joetta Prost, Tony Potochnik and Board President Kathy Shell.