

Hillhurst United Church Building Project

Initial Congregational Meeting April 26, 2009

Congregation feedback based on questions handed out at meeting: 43 written responses returned at meeting, 5 emails to follow. Tabulated to May 7, 2009

What are you excited about?

CALL: Holy call; God is moving through this place. His people have heard “the call” and are moving forward; doing something “on the ground” (faith into action); Turning words into action; We are showing our Love in ACTION; Social justice; Moving forward – not standing still. Great to have people with vision; Moving forward; (9)

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: The ability to house needy families; including vulnerable community in our community; transforming relationships of those who have and those who have not; helping homeless; supporting people who are in need of housing; helping the need for affordable housing; low income housing and the opportunity for community member to engage with people lived experiences in homelessness and poverty (eg community garden); Affordable housing; I like the mission to work in affordable housing; Affordable housing idea is great; The premise of the church building (sponsoring) affordable housing on this site. Meeting a critical need – low income housing; Housing for low income; outreach to homeless; Affordable housing is exciting, great use of space; the housing concept puts weight to our sentiments; I am excited about the possibility of affordable housing for low income families. There is a very great need for this; Tying the church plan to the affordable housing issue; Being able to help; Helping housing crisis; Getting help to ease the housing crisis in Calgary; Our community providing affordable housing; Providing low income families an option. Providing affordable housing is perfectly in-line with the values of the United Church. (22)

CHURCH NEEDS: New Church Space; Enhancing church programming; A new space for church gathering; Building that provides a multi-functional space that meets the needs of community members from all walks of life; I'd like the fact that we'll have a very workable area for church functions; More space for the church to grow; The chance to influence the future use of the land the church owns; Landscaping is great; The ability to accommodate a range of different sized groups; functional and versatile. (10)

CHURCH SUPPORT: Strong support (church attendance) at Hillhurst; The vitality and commitment of those who come; the obvious passion and hardwork that has gone into exploring the use of this space as a church and for the community; Being in church today – meaning all the experience with one another and good fellowship. A growing community; I thought that the turn-out today was a good indication of the interest for this redevelopment. (5)

VISION: Opportunity to pull Hillhurst community together focused on this project/future; I am excited about bringing our entire church community together as a body to continue in fulfilling our vision of our work in Christ in this place at this time; Aligned with vision; That the Church is looking to move forward in its vision; That we are “active” in our visioning process in an area that really matters to the city; Your big powerful vision. This is real faith; Going forward to help ourselves and the community; The moving forward; More socially conscious space to enhance our church mission and vision; Opportunity to live a vision on our own community. (10)

ACCESSIBILITY: Anything which improves accessibility is a big improvement. It is very difficult to get around on crutches or in a wheelchair; I'm excited about better access for wheelchairs to the church; Improved handicap accessibility; Inclusivity; Making Hillhurst United Accessible for everyone; accessible; I like the retrofitting of the church for accessibility;(7)

LARGER COMMUNITY: Expanding community involvement and access; Community building exercise (both neighbourhood and church); a building that reflects the notion of Hillhurst being a hub of the community; The possibility of involving the municipal, provincial and federal grants is a great vision; helps the

cities 10 year plan; Urban development and planning, multi use buildings in community; Engaging in community. Sharing with the community, better use of our land space; That the majority of the funding for the "apartments" will be paid from outside sources. (8)

ENVIRONMENTAL: State of the art ecologically responsible building (Leed certification); Environmentally friendly; Focus on environmentally friendly building; greener; I'm very excited about construction of a LEADS building I don't believe it will cost very more initially and will save on operating costs in time. (5)

GENERAL COMMENTS: Great idea, glad to see it going forward; Good idea; I like the concept; Everything; Great idea, long overdue; The idea; beautiful; I'm excited about the proposal! I will be volunteering my time as a carpenter on this project: The resource, people, income already in place; The draft/design/ideas re layout.