

THE ISAIAH PROJECT **STEERING COMMITTEE** – UPDATE – January - March 2025

The Isaiah Project Steering Committee serves to support the purpose, vision and priorities of a vital, progressive, Christian faith community. We want to honor our past while also acting with creativity, curiosity, and courage to plan for a future that will look differently from today. While investigating needed updates and repairs to our buildings and grounds, we are also determining ways that we can intentionally move forward on our identified priorities.

The Steering Committee brings together the Task Force liaisons, who are the primary point of contact with the four Task Forces, with other First Congregational representatives, to report on activities and handle questions, concerns, and feedback. We meet twice a month to gather, analyze and integrate the information from the Task Forces to make decisions and recommendations. We held an “All Isaiah” meeting in December so more Task Force members could share information directly and look for guidance, support and advice from each other. We also continue regular updates to Church Council and in-depth discussions with our Co-Pastors and the Director of Operational Ministry.

Since our last update, we have prepared a high-level timeline for 2025 with estimates of key dates and worked on a more detailed master timeline with individual Task Force timelines and milestones. We are also reviewing building and capital campaign history.

We are working on a communication plan and have implemented several steps of that plan while continuing its development. For example, we have adopted and published an “elevator speech” to respond concisely to the question “What is The Isaiah Project?” Although not the complete picture, we feel it is something people can grab onto now, and as other phases of The Isaiah Project come into view, we can expand on it.

When you hear "The Isaiah Project," think "infrastructure." The Steering Committee and four Task Forces are prayerfully engaged in research, community partnership development, and discernment to provide recommendations to Church Council about our buildings, grounds, and neighborhood presence. These recommendations will address our current and future needs and support our mission and priorities.

We set a communication plan goal to have information shared regularly in The Open Door. We succeeded in publishing announcements since the first of the year and have a logo for “The Isaiah Corner.”



Related to the communication plan, Dale Hanson has worked on gathering materials for a website repository of information that anyone could retrieve at any time. Dale also developed a video introduction that was put into use with our architectural firm candidates and we hope will get more further use. We invite you all to view it. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= IOG6F78 kg&t=3s>.

Also, communication plan related, we have a Suggestion Box in the Narthex (built by Dale). There is a paper form for writing questions and ideas next to the box. This form is available on-line and will also be published in The Open Door when there is space available there or as an insert.

One of our immediate next steps is to plan a focus groups with people who mostly attend Sunday services on-line and with parents of young children (newborn to six years old.)

Thank you for your interest. The Isaiah Project Steering Committee, Nancy Brown-Koeller, Susan McFadden, Steve Hirby, Chip Gabbey, Kristine Hietpas, William Ritcey, Pastor Nick Hatch, Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey, Vince Salvia, Sarah Wilterdink