June 28, 2019

Dear Bothell UMC Family,

We began over 130 years ago in downtown Bothell, with our roots being in service to the local community. At that time, the downtown is where people gathered, lived and worked and it was the perfect place to be located. In the 1950’s, people moved into the suburbs and so did we. Our current location is a great neighborhood, it is our home base, we have firm roots here, and we know that we belong here. Today, new growth is bringing literally thousands of people back to the urban core of downtown Bothell. What does this mean for our purpose of Becoming Christ in the Community?

A team has formed to research and develop a vision for creating a physical presence for Bothell UMC in the downtown Bothell area that can significantly expand the ministries of our Westhill location. This team consists of people who have served in positions of outreach to our community, have a knowledge of local housing issues, and are committed to our purpose of Becoming Christ in the Community.

The team’s current direction is to look at our assets and seek to repurpose them if they aren’t being used to their fullest potential. Therefore, the team believes that it is time to assess the financial viability of selling the under-utilized property on the west side of our parking lot and repurpose that asset to acquire a physical presence in the downtown Bothell core.

While there are many specific ways a downtown Bothell presence could materialize for us, the goal is to carry out Becoming Christ in the Community by creating an inclusive, inviting gathering space where people connect to one another, to human services and to spiritual well-being. The vision for the downtown location includes partnerships with organizations who share in this vision and are experienced in property development and affordable housing. Imagine a multi-story building where we own the land, a partner organization builds affordable housing, and we occupy the ground floor where we can offer radical hospitality and outreach for those in need exactly where they are.

Is it time for us to go back to our roots, live out our purpose and have a presence in downtown Bothell?

We believe it is and that this vision for Bothell UMC Urban is a calling for all of us. We invite you to an open-air discussion; we want to hear from you! Please come at 7pm on Thursday, July 18 to the Bothell UMC Fellowship Hall. You will meet the team, be invited to ask your questions, and begin dreaming with us in Becoming Christ in the Community!

Respectfully,

Rev. Kristin Joyner
Deacon, Community Engagement

Rev. Joseph Kim
Lead Pastor

Team:
Barbara Bailey Barbo34@comcast.net, Alan Jacobsen AJacobsen47@msn.com,
Ron Kreizenbeck RAKreizen@aol.com, Jim O’Farrell JamesOFarrell@hotmail.com
Urban 2020 Vision

Bothell United Methodist Church has been in the Bothell community for over 130 years and its roots have been in serving the community. Church members built the first school in Bothell and after a summer fire ravaged the town, the church raised money for a bell that served as the community’s fire alarm. Bothell UMC continues to serve the community today in a myriad of ways and sees the increasing population in the downtown area as a positive sign of growth and an opportunity to serve a growing population. We aspire to continue and expand our work in ministry with the Bothell community by assuring that the needs of this increasingly urban population are met. Our commitment to this region and our purpose of *Becoming Christ in the Community* are propelling us to secure a physical location in the downtown area in order to connect more directly with the community and serve people where they are.

This physical location will be designed to bring an open community gathering space, community service touch points, affordable housing and spiritual wellness to urban Bothell in partnership with other agencies. Bothell UMC current assets of real estate will be repurposed in order to invest those assets in a downtown property. We envision the implementation of a ground lease on the property to developers who share in our vision.

Bothell UMC Urban will be located on the ground floor of a multistory building. Bothell UMC Urban will provide a variety of activities and programs throughout the year for people of all ages and backgrounds to find a place of belonging, and specifically aimed at people looking for transformation, renewal and restoration. People desiring a place that is safe, inclusive and comfortable will feel at home here. The facility will feel modern, inviting and will be located in a convenient location near transit access. We envision an inclusive space that all will feel welcome and at the same time address those who are in need of human services (both mental and physical) as well as those seeking spiritual nourishment.

Contact Information:

Team Lead: Rev. Kristin Joyner  Kristin@Bothellumc.org
Barbara Bailey  Barbo34@comcast.net
Alan Jacobsen  AJJacobsen47@msn.com
Ron Kreizenbeck  RAKreizen@aol.com
Jim O'Farrell  JamesOFarrell@hotmail.com