

Possible Futures St Mary's

Testing Process ...

Last night the group selected from among seven broad options for the future. We also identified characteristics and liturgical preferences we hoped for in our life together. We selected three of those broad options as having the most promise for the future. They are represented here with some comments on what they might offer us.

All of what we seek in the characteristics of parish life and in our liturgical preferences is possible in each option; though it might be easier in some than others.

Rate the options

1. Merged Life – At St. Mary's with Lutherans. Shared worship, education and social life. We would offer them a proposal for them to join us at our location. We would become one congregation. We would need to work out all the details common to any merger – name, leadership, clergy, worship style and pattern. For worship to have a more integrated feel and better fit out tradition we would need to negotiate for either an ecumenical template for the Eucharist that was neither Lutheran or Episcopal or work out a way of alternating seasons with each traditions liturgy or _____. We would want to have the common cup restored to full use (rather than individual cups).

Because the Lutherans have more members we would want to have all this arranged so it was unlikely that we would just be absorbed.

If they accepted our proposal we would begin to experiment with some elements of what life together would look like.

I would not want to do this.				I'd be very open to this
1	2	3	4	5

2. Shared Space – At St. Mary's with Lutherans. We would each have our own worship, education and social life. We would have our own clergy. Our own web site. We would each do our own work to attract new members. We could work out occasions of shared worship, education and social life on occasion. For example there might be a Sunday pattern of worship like this – 9:00 am – Episcopal Rt 2; 11:00 Lutheran; in between educational time. We might share some social time in between services. We could decide to have joint worship on

occasion – special days, once/month or once /quarter. We probably would share many ministries of compassion and justice.

If we decide on this pathway we will work out an agreement with the Lutherans to begin to experiment with ways of doing it.

I would not want to do this.				I'd be very open to this
1	2	3	4	5

3. On our own – We would develop our life without any assumption that the Lutherans would be with us beyond the time it takes them to develop their property.

As needed, and right now it is needed, we would rent space to other groups.

I would not want to do this.				I'd be very open to this
1	2	3	4	5

Rank the options

Of the options, which is your top choice, which second and so on?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Closer to the water

All of these options have an alternative within them. We could stay in our present location or we could work with developers to move closer to the water.

Working with this option might allow us to:

- Have a new building that was on the water, lots of light, with the worship space having a water view, original liturgical art (hangings, vestments, etc.)
- We could use outside space for coffee hour and other events during much of the year.

- Develop a pot of money from the sale and ask the diocese to contribute funds that would allow us to attract new members.
- A space that was arranged from the start to allow intimacy in worship and social life as needed and to expand as we attracted new members.
- The space and the worship we could do in that space might create part of the “buzz” needed for growth.

1. If we stayed on our own

Stay at present location				Move to waterfront (if possible)
1	2	3	4	5

2. If we Shared Space

Stay at present location				Move to waterfront (if possible)
1	2	3	4	5

3. If we Merged

Stay at present location				Move to waterfront (if possible)
1	2	3	4	5

If Shared Space – If we did end up sharing space at St. Mary’s which of the options below comes closest to how you would like to see that arranged.

Our space – we own it, develop it, and work out a long term rental agreement with the Lutherans	Our space – we own it, develop it <i>with input</i> from Lutherans, and work out a long term rental agreement with the Lutherans	Our space – we own it, but <i>develop it jointly</i> , and work out a long term rental agreement with the Lutherans	It is <i>owned by both churches</i> . We design it together.
1	2	3	4