

FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions about the 3-Church Initiative

Last updated March 18, 2020

What churches are involved in the proposed building partnership?

Living Table United Church of Christ, Spirit of St. Stephens Catholic Community and Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church.

Will we worship together with the other two churches, share a pastor?

No. Each church will worship separately. Each congregation will have its own spiritual leadership.

What time would we worship?

This has yet to be determined.

Will we share Sunday School?

This has yet to be determined.

Are we selling the building to the other churches?

No. We will all share the building. A separate nonprofit corporation will be created to own and manage the building. All three churches will share in the management by equal representation on a Building Board. All three churches will have a significant financial investment in the nonprofit.

Why aren't we just renting space to the other churches?

As we know from our experience with renting to the school, being a landlord places a significant burden on the pastor and office staff. Having partners, rather than renters, should free up resources for the ministries – the work God has called us to. (Also see question about saving money.)

What about Hope Lutheran Church?

Hope plans to sell their building this year and consolidate with another Lutheran church. LNL is one of the congregations under consideration. A final decision is expected this year. If they consolidate with us, we will become one Lutheran church and worship together.

Will we share staff?

Plans are to have the Building Board hire a building manager and probably a custodian. There are no plans to share other staff.

How will we schedule rooms for meetings and practices; funerals and weddings?

The building manager, hired by the Building Board, will be responsible for scheduling space use equitably for all three congregations.

What about parking?

There is ample parking in our lot and around the neighborhood. We have seen this work when we have large funerals with up to 400 people in attendance.

What about the school ~ Hennepin Middle School?

No changes are anticipated at this time.

Will we inform the neighborhood?

There are plans to publicize and promote the change via newspaper articles and other means.

How soon would the change take place?

We expect to know more on this soon.

Will we save money?

The current estimate is that, yes, we will save money. We have been blessed by those who preceded us in the creation and care of this beautiful building. The goal is to honor this gift and preserve this building. By sharing maintenance and upkeep costs, we will have more funds for our ministries.

What if a church wants to leave the partnership?

This will be addressed in the agreement, which will require approval of all 3 churches.

How will we communicate with the other churches?

In terms of building management, members of the Building Board will report to the councils of each church. Since all three churches will have staff in the building, there should be ample opportunity for communication.

What if I have other questions?

Contact any member of the LNL Communications Team. This FAQ document will be updated frequently.

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