

## Summary of the Church Forum 11/10/19

### Stay Subcommittee

Doug welcomed the participants to the first of the forums. We streamed live to South Bay.

General overview. The Subcommittee is not advocating for Staying. We are developing the information needed to make an informed decision. We are analyzing the practical aspect of staying. Dec 1<sup>st</sup> is next forum where we hope to provide some specifics. We are currently digging into UCSD's long range development document. Obvious there will have to be some dialog between us and UCSD. All members may access the Visioning the Future (VTF) website, where the document can be found. To save time, we recommend you focus of first 120 pages of Long-range Development Report. [www.firstuusandiego.org/visioning](http://www.firstuusandiego.org/visioning)

If we stay we will not be guided by past experience, but by the Vision for the Future which will come out of strategic development.

We will also look at other uses for the parking lot if it is de-valued due to loss of parking revenue. Kathleen Brand expressed that we have a lot of potential for the site because of its location and size. She enumerated many options for the campus and parking.

#### Questions:

1. Has any consideration been given to leasing the land? – David Anderson
  - a. We recommend everyone read Living the Liberal Religion (available in the UU bookroom) for more background info.
  - b. Leasing is an option that will be considered. UCSD asked if we wanted to sell, and we said “no”. We do not want to devalue our entire campus by selling off just the parking lot.
  - c. Eminent Domain is not an issue at this point. There is a lot of open space in the UCSD plan and Eminent Domain is awkward and costly.
2. Before we got into significant revenues from parking, a committee, chaired by Betty Boone, was formed to field proposals for development from outsiders in the early 70s. She suggests that may be an option again.
3. John Holl suggests we might think of the parking lot as a “special fund” that gives us money to only fund special projects. If we looked on the parking lot for only funding special projects, the members would feel like they needed to fill the pledge gap and drops in parking revenue could just lead to deferral of projects, not cutting programs.
  - a. Carolyn pointed out that when the parking lot income got to be higher than pledges, they went to the congregation to increase pledges and the members responded.
  - b. Because of the parking lot revenue, we have the lowest reliance on pledging of any large church. However, our average pledge is not much less than the others. We just have better programming.

4. Betsy Stevens commented that she was here when Ace parking first proposed taking over the parking lot. At the time, it was dirt, and we didn't realize the asset we had. She is glad the committee is doing the work.
5. Will the Stay Committee also be looking at the changes in this area of the city? Les wants to be sure that our committee does not have an overwhelming bias.
  - a. Kathleen Brand says the City of SD is making lots of changes to Muni code. We are in the right place and right time. She suggests we each check out the Transit Priority Area on City of SD website. UCSD is going to have some additional transit options, like a shuttle that may be made public. Also, the FRED is coming to Hillcrest, and it's free.
6. South Bay – Question about sharing South Bay site with a non-profit.
  - a. We are only at the investigative stage to see if we can find a more permanent solution for South Bay.
7. South Bay – Is Dec 31<sup>st</sup> the deadline to give UCSD an answer about selling the campus?
  - a. Spring is the new deadline, unless we don't have a definitive answer. If a majority of the congregation doesn't feel the same, one way or the other, then we won't give them an answer.
  - b. Stay Committee is the fallback. If we can't reach a consensus we'll stay and perhaps revisit this again in the future. The development is a long term project, with completion scheduled for about 10 years from now.
8. Have we looked into the feasibility of a capital campaign to pay off the mortgage?  
Rhea Khulman
  - a. Mortgage costs \$125K/year, it weighs us down. It will be looked at.
9. Will we tell people what's going on? Steve Howard
  - a. We will put out information on what we know, not what we guess
  - b. The website is being updated regularly
10. Wants us to give attention to what will grow membership. Dave Hunt