

BUILDING A VIBRANT CHURCH: ONE SPIRIT, MANY GIFTS

THE STRATEGIC PLANNING MINISTRY TEAM – “DREAM, PLAN, ACT”

At the Special Meeting held on March 3rd to approve the replacement of the church's heating system, Chris Guiffre raised a concern shared by others in the congregation; yes, we need to take care of our building, but what are we doing to address changes taking place in faith communities today that are impacting membership and participation in the life of our church? How are we planning to meet these challenges?

Making plans to address the needs of this sacred building is only half the task before us as a congregation; the other task is for us as a community to develop strategies to answer this question Chris and others raised on that Sunday morning. And that is why a Strategic Planning Ministry Team has been called together to serve in this role.

To keep everyone up to date on the Master Planning process, we will report to you periodically through “Events at the Hills.” And at any time, do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or concerns. E-mail officeofthemoderator@hillschurch.org to share them with Mary Hill Canavan, Gintas Vildzius, and Chris Stowell or reach out to any of them individually.

Six members of the congregation along with two of our clergy have been working to broadly outline the steps we will take in this process. They include: Rob Andrews, Mary Hill Canavan, Anne Marie Holloway, Nancy Simons, Jessica Sturtevant, Kristen Toffer, Gintas Vildzius, and Matt Wooster.

In the coming weeks, they will be reaching out to you with ideas and possibilities for your input and feedback to begin to identify specific programs and ministries that will help our church community live more fully into the five Hallmarks of our church ministry:

- Deepening Our Spiritual Journeys
- Fostering Authentic Relationships
- Investing in Children and Youth
- Welcoming, Inviting, and Involving Our Neighbors
- Caring for Others through Christian Service

Whether your connection to this church is old or new, your participation and voice matter - as it is our collective discernment that determines the next step on our church journey and in our life as a faith community.

In service and faith,
Mary Hill Canavan, Gintas Vildzius, Chris Stowell
Office of the Moderator