

# House of Hope *Dreamscape*

**Our Transitional Pastor Scott Kenefake invited us to dream.**

What's on the walls here in the Gallery are the dreams that you offered. They're not just about our buildings, but about our identity and future.

We're committed to essential building upgrades and correcting deficiencies. But just fixing what must be fixed isn't enough. This is a once-in-a-half-century opportunity.

Where is the Spirit moving us? What might we become?  
What will we do to make our dreams come true?

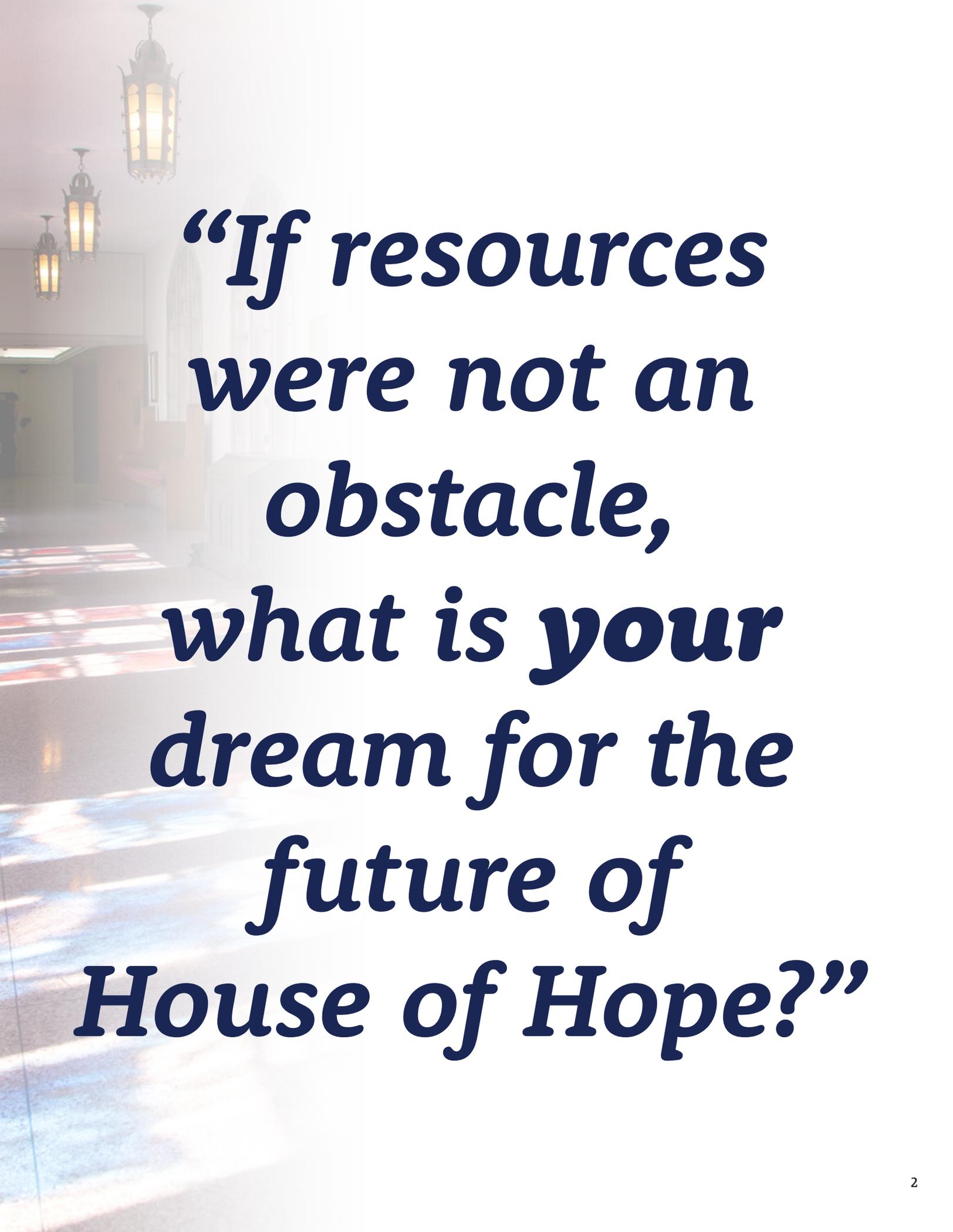
## *Why? Change is Here*

In the mid-20th century, mainline Protestant churches were the center of religious life in the US, full of kids and families.

Today, the fastest growing religious demographic is the "spiritual but not religious." Many of these younger individuals love and respect the teachings of Jesus—they just don't go to church.

How do churches like House of Hope do ministry in this new theological and cultural landscape? The answer is simple:  
***Differently!***

*Dreaming is Part of Changing.*



***“If resources  
were not an  
obstacle,  
what is **your**  
dream for the  
future of  
House of Hope?”***

# Reimagined, Energized—Radically Welcoming

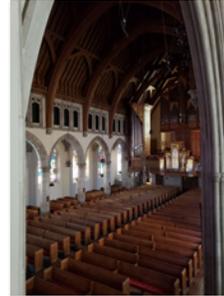
## Opening our Spaces & Presentation to the World

LED Signage



Concerts, speakers, social programs all week

Inviting entries, gathering spaces



Honor building's rich heritage, architecture

Become vibrant community center

Move, open-up, use Library

Community can see visibly active campus

Updated playground—Park energized, busy

Greatly expanded community involvement

Updated amenities in line with vision

### In your own words: *“If resources were not an obstacle, what is your dream for the future of House of Hope?”*

- The library is relieved of its antiquated and repurposed to a teaching classroom. All the books and the bookshelves are evaluated, and the shelves are moved into the Assembly room.
- This assembly room is the new gathering space for before and after worship. The library is part of the experience that you get when you come into the assembly. Any art that is hung there, is named, and labeled with a story, the artist and why it is included. In fact, NO art is without this kind of documentation.
- A new welcome center is established to help visitors' way-find, people are greeted and the wayfinding in clear with new signage.
- That it is nourishing—spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, and socially with spaces and programs that facilitate that. “fun” spaces and programs, weekly coffee spaces, tai chi, work out spaces, a gym, sports teams all open to the community, a day care/nursery school—a vibrant community center.
- That we attend to the outside of the HOH campus from all sides—to ensure that we are visible to those in the neighborhood, to those passing through the neighborhood, and to those attending worship or some other activity. That we enhance both the Summit Ave and Portland Ave side. As well as Avon, and the east side of the building. That HOH looks welcoming and inviting—and perhaps we share a bit of our history—something for passerby to engage.
- A welcoming exterior and interior that reflects a theology of hospitality. Accessibility for all to all areas. Multi-purpose rooms, filled with activity weekdays and weekends. Tenants and activities that make contribute to the sustainability of the church's missions. Fully supported music and arts programs. A technologically updated building.
- HOH is “The” Hub of our community—Attracts many with our hubbub. Open our doors like churches of Europe, shrines of Asia. No more talk about cost of security. Pandemic proved when people aren't around, security problems GROW, not the opposite.
- The Portland entrance is as elegant as the presence on Summit. Doors that are not used are barricaded some attractive—beautiful planter in front?
- Let's connect our beautiful interior with our beautiful exterior by creating inviting entryways that beckon the passerby to come in.
- Find ways to respect the old and bring in new—new art and furniture.
- Gatherings of neighborhood religious groups.
- There are not so many “hard edges” in the ethos of the building.
- I dream of honoring our building's rich heritage and architecture while providing some updated amenities in line with that vision. What might it look like to us to update the furniture in the Kirk Parlor and Library or choir robes? Can there be Wi-Fi for those in church, white boards rather than chalk, seating in rooms that cater to those using it, a youth room with items the youth like (foosball, bean bags, etc)? Let's present a modern point of view within our traditional space.
- Main library and children's library that are vibrant, and up to date.
- Better internal signage so that a visitor could easily see where they are.
- Approval from the Summit Avenue Preservation Society (or whatever it's called) notwithstanding, I would like to see signage outside the building/lawn that would promote HoH, activities, special events, etc. Banners, flags, LED “billboard” with changeable pictures and text, etc.



# This House and Campus, all in Good Order

## Accessible, Compliant & Efficient



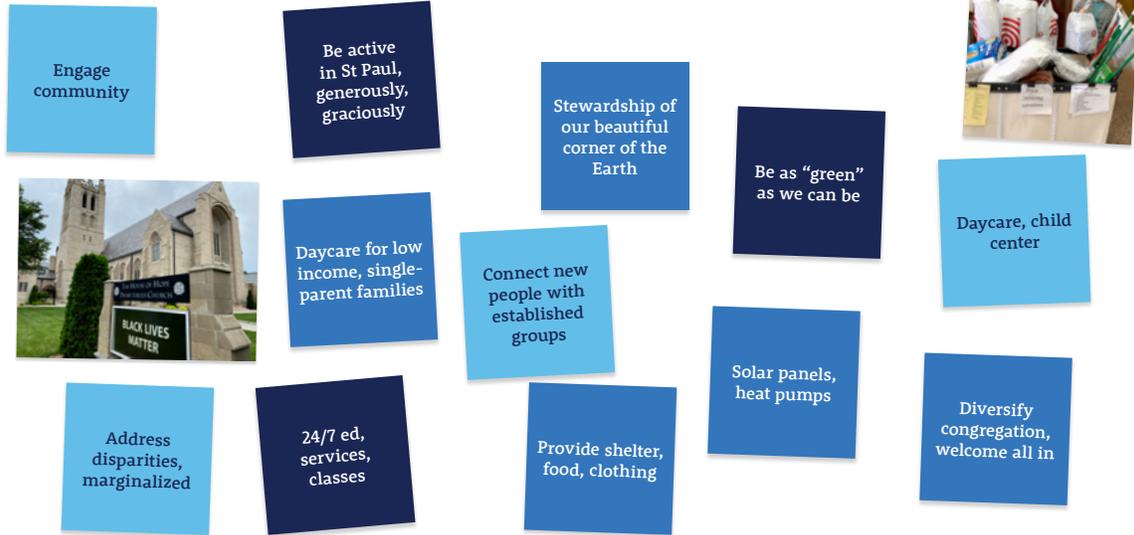
### In your own words: *“If resources were not an obstacle, what is your dream for the future of House of Hope?”*

- Provide new expanded information technology (IT) for enhanced communication connectivity. I thought the last congregant meeting had good information but was poorly presented virtually (maybe even in person) e.g., adult enrichment, Friday morning women’s breakfast. Hire an individual to implement this goal.
- Solid Internet building wide.
- Room 1 is a great room, yet it needs something to soften the sound—it’s all hard surfaces.
- Great Hall, Dining Rooms A&B, Kirk Parlor, Room 1.
- Livestream: expand to chapel, Assembly Room, Great Hall, and Dining Rooms A&B. Lighting: Electrify chandeliers in the chapel.
- Technology: Screen on the wall in the Assembly Room; Make sure rooms can use laptops, screens, TV, etc. for presentations.
- Odd ideas—could we offer the campus, parts of the building or rooms/spaces as a movie/ video set?
- The physical building is striking, but some areas are hard and sterile. This may be intimidating to some and could make peeps feel uneasy and unwelcomed. Use colors, soft materials, design elements, etc. to ease all the sharp corners and edges to make certain areas less harsh? Granted some peeps may not be as appreciative of the architecture, while understanding that some/many HoH members appreciate the architecture of the building and don’t want it altered.
- The park is renovated so its full space is used. There are clear spaces for children accessible equipment and resting and reflective space for all.
- A sound and light system that is easy to operate, and the stage has an addition that includes a proscenium, jutting out into the room adding a note of welcome and access.
- ADA compliant throughout the building. Elevators as needed.
- Accessibility: Handicap accessibility and access improvements to all entrances of the sanctuary; elevator to second floor of education wing; accessibility out of the Great Hall other than stairs and the elevator which could not be used.
- Both elevators a go to the second floor
- All the bathrooms work
- Fix air conditioner and furnace.
- Office space that meets the needs of our staff—that they design!!!



# This House is a Hub—Opening Doors, Doing Good

## Embodying Care for People & Planet Earth



### In your own words: ***“If resources were not an obstacle, what is your dream for the future of House of Hope?”***

- I would like to see HOH extend into the community of St. Paul to enrich areas that need help: where there is disparity, marginalization, needs: HOH is there, generously, and graciously.
- Create and support a catalog of classes—community ed stuff—perhaps taught by members or others looking for a location for community outreach.
- I would like us to be a community leader in stewardship of our beautiful corner of the earth—by offsetting our fossil fuel use, managing our water use and stormwater runoff, landscaping with native plants, offering EV charging stations to our neighbors, and striving toward zero waste in all our gatherings.
- Recycling available, building wide.
- Music is important, but I would like to see more focus on message, especially regarding living as a Christian. I’m not talking about morality and ethics, though they can be part of it. I’m talking about how to keep perspective in a world that seems like it’s in turmoil. I believe message is extremely important for members of the congregation and those external to it.
- I would love to see the building in use almost 24/7—for worship (mid-week, Sunday evening?), education, community service, civic, sports/ yoga, with childcare in the evening hours. Rather than expecting the community to come to us during our traditional hours, provide blessings and services to the community when it is needed, not when we want to offer it.
- My dream for HOH is to build a community center on the vacant land north of the church. It could house programs such as a food shelf, a clothing room, a commercial kitchen, a gymnasium, and other meeting rooms. It would also include temporary housing for homeless families. In addition to some professional staff, volunteers from HOH, Unity Church, and River of Life could staff the programs. Such a center would enable HOH’s members to service its community and neighbors.
- I dream of an updated playground and park area that might be more useful and safer for the congregation and neighborhood, what lives might be touched by the simple gesture of play and outdoor gathering space.
- Expanding HOH involvement in the community around us more often with a range of activities, concerts, speakers, social programs, activities for our youth throughout the week
- To open our doors to the community and find beneficial programs for the church and community to share.
- Flexibility in worship opportunities, such as a weekday evening service, might encourage increased participation.
- Effort made to engage surrounding community, diversify congregation; I would like to see a more welcoming congregation, one that does more than just greet, but engage and incorporate others into the groups that have previously been established.
- A daycare for low income, single-parent families. In the past when I inquired, the problem was we were not up to code, but we should explore what it would take to get up to code and what child-oriented care we could provide at various levels. We have two floors of classrooms, a stage, a playground, and an area that maybe could be turned into a gym. Offer tutoring and supper for after school.
- To have church attendance return to pre-pandemic levels. It would be a big challenge but wonderful to sponsor a refugee family, would it be feasible to have a nursery school in the education wing as we had a number of years ago.
- It would be good to provide some place for families overnight
- House of Hope is a place for religious & spiritual growth free from politics, political statements, standings, activism. Focus should be on Christianity and teachings in the Bible. There should be no political signage on the church grounds.
- My dream is that the HOH doors are open wide throughout the day and night, seven days a week and the building is filled with at-risk kids in after-school programs, seniors in adult day care to give caregivers a rest, newly arrived immigrants and refugees attending orientations and English language classes, women and children sheltering safely from abuse, those in need coming to the food and clothing shelf for necessities, adults mentoring teens and where the building (which has become a green model complete with solar panels and heat pump) is considered just a tool for our ministry rather than an idol to worship.

# A Thoughtful, Creative & Convening House

## Centers of Excellence: Arts, Music & Theology

Funded music programs, building full of music

Grow our brand: Arts, music, theology, caring

Our facilities are 5-star—showcase this

Become grand convener with other non-profits

Local music instructors, theater groups, recitals, plays

Performances, tours, lectures, weddings, exhibits

Relationships with local ed, arts organizations

Thriving performance and cultural arts space

Preserve, display our rich history

Continue traditional “anchor”, complement with contemporary

Community-wide incubator for education, arts

Develop, support metro-wide choristers

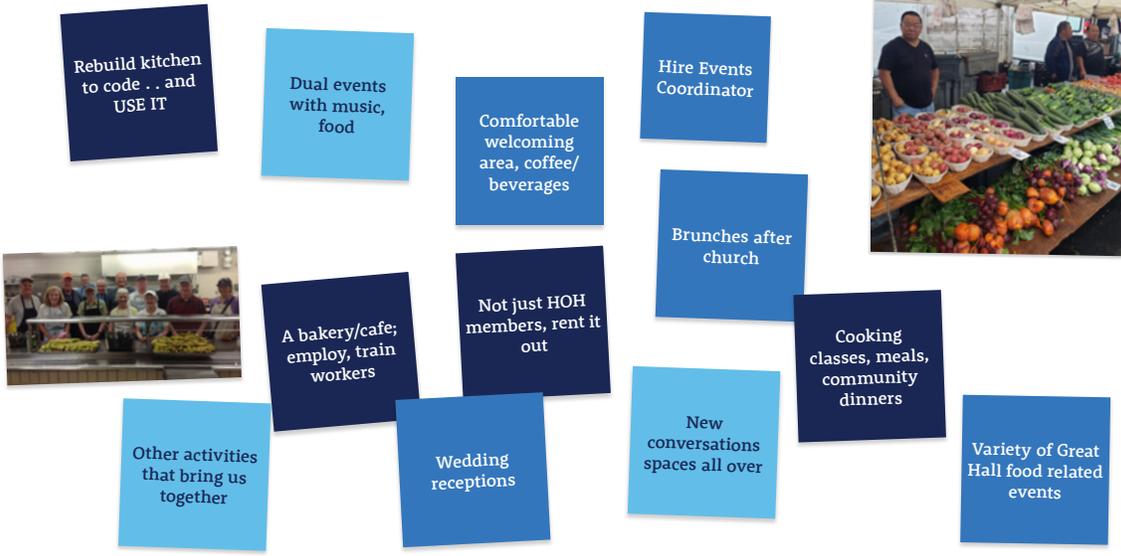


### In your own words: *“If resources were not an obstacle, what is your dream for the future of House of Hope?”*

- I dream HOH will become a grand convener with other non-profits to find solutions to problems in the Twin Cities. Our facilities are 5-star. Let's showcase this by inviting others to participate in symposiums and conferences, etc.
- Open up the doors and share our church with the community—for performances, tours, lectures, weddings, exhibits, and more. And while we are at it,
- I dream of House of Hope becoming a well-known location for local music instructors or theater groups or conferences to hold their recitals, plays or meetings. How might we inspire others to do well within our space?
- Have regularly scheduled musical/artistic/dance/plays/presentation performances with featured musicians, groups, authors, actors, etc. This may allow opportunities to strengthen community involvement as well as social interaction between HoH members as well as with our community neighbors.
- To offer a thriving performance and cultural arts space for the community
- I would love for HOH to grow more fully into a community-wide incubator for education and the arts, broadening and deepening relationships with local education and arts organizations.
- We keep and grow our brand of arts, music, theology and caring with, (not for) and supplement it with a radically inclusive mindset of hospitality.
- Link up with Presbyterian churches in recognition of the franchise that we are—Join marketing resources. Mega churches' multiple campuses/services attract today's generation, they LOOK successful (with all their faults). Success begets success. For that matter, link up with Summit Ave churches. Struggling art galleries teamed up to do Art Crawls. Voila! each one was bolstered.
- How can we find opportunities for experiences in music, the arts, sciences, and invite students to make HOH a spiritual home.
- Can we think and imagine outside the traditional bounds the church has historically lived in? For example, we have a superb music staff consider making HOH a music hub for the region. Our Choir School should be a regional draw as well. Continue the Sunday Series guest speakers who draw audience from the area and leverage that exposure to add new members to our congregation.
- To see the space used for presentations that all kinds of people would be interested in and free to attend. A conversation with Danny Glover was one of the first things I remembered attending (outside of a worship service) and it impressed me tremendously that such a conversation should happen here.
- HOH viewed as the crown jewel of Summit. Promote to the max our gems like HOH music, architecture, art. People might then stumble on our renowned preaching & lectures, nourishment for mind & soul. Once attracted to the “sizzle” they will find the “steak.”
- Music service each quarter.
- Music events, recitals, readings. Author signing etc. are prevalent
- Music concerts throughout summer on front lawn and area behind church
- Choir School—the one everyone is talking about. Draws choristers from all over metro.
- When our daughter was growing up, we encouraged her to always “play to your strengths.” HOH's strength has always been its music program and its beautiful building. My dream is opening it up to more community use and put the choir on the front lawn!
- Considering that HoH is old with a history, can we emulate how some European churches and cathedrals present their history and provenance? We might not have relics from the Middle Ages or body part from saints, or precious gemstones and gold to display. But HoH does have a rich history and a legacy, and that story could be told. Could we leverage this idea into presenting an educational/informational/documentary of HoH? If there are no physical artifacts to display, there must be tons of photos, either within HoH or available from members who would be willing to share them. If so, instead of physical photos/photo albums, could we do a multimedia presentation? May need to have a dedicated set up/area for that.
- We don't lose the history but relegate to its deserved respectful place.
- The parlor is our new history center?

# Breaking Bread is at the Heart of This House

## Kitchen, Cooking, Catering & Community



### In your own words: *“If resources were not an obstacle, what is your dream for the future of House of Hope?”*

- Functioning kitchen—a boon for Choir School evening practice. Not enough room here for all the benefits of eliminating that Black Hole that is our kitchen today.
- Turn part of the building into a bakery/ cafe and train workers in good business practices and steady employment Use part of the garden for outdoor seating. This would welcome more community members to stop by and join in fellowship.
- New conversations spaces are created, and the parlor is re-furnished with new furniture
- Dual events with music, food and? comedy? IMPROV? Talent show?
- Valet parking available on Sundays, those coming to Wednesday Bible Study which could be handled by custodial staff or office staff.
- The space we call the Great Hall: There is a lovely kitchen in the great hall—(rename the room—especially if we get a big donor)—is the heart of a home to a variety of food related events. Cooking classes, special meals, community dinners. This is not just a catering kitchen, but one that is fully operational.
- Kitchen upgrade to serve various groups using HOH building.
- Catering Kitchen: Groups would be able to offer food; preparation and clean up areas would need to be installed and equipped.
- Once the kitchen is in place, periodically have a local celebrity chef come in and create. Could be for any reason including social gatherings (following services?) fund raising, special or themed meals, rentals, etc.
- Future: I would like to see the church hire an Events Coordinator to seek out and implement utilization of HOH building spaces for a wider variety uses. The current staff is too busy to support this important outreach role.
- Rebuild the kitchen in the lower level to code standards, and then USE IT. Not only for HoH members, but other activities that peeps could rent it out for (almost) any reason.
- Create a “welcome” area with comfortable seating, small sofas, tables or high-tops, with coffee/beverages, wall art, bulletin board, HoH information, community news, staff photos, etc.
- Brunch after Sunday service for everyone; free’ catered.
- Have a good operating kitchen and the Great Hall fixed up so HOH could have brunches after church, wedding receptions, other activities to bring us together.
- The great hall has windows bringing in light to the many events that are held.



# A Full House: Innovative Partners, New Funding

## Becoming Financially Self-Sustaining



### In your own words: *“If resources were not an obstacle, what is your dream for the future of House of Hope?”*

- Bring all areas of the building(s) e.g., education wing, up to code so we can rent out or lease space in these areas. Use could be for any artistic ventures (music/performance/fine arts/etc.), a wide range of educational classes, offices and workplaces for smaller businesses and start-ups; etc.
- Maybe we could check in with Women’s Advocates or a foundation to assess how we can respectfully and usefully make a contribution. It might be best to sell some of the assets and start a whole new entity separate from the church. The parable of the Good Samaritan teaches us that we should be more like foreigners and do good without regard for our religion.
- Future: I would like to see a Foundation created for the HOH building, based on (secular) architectural preservation of the edifice.
- Another obvious use for our church is as a tourist attraction.
- I dream that the church can be “financially” self-sustaining, such that the inflow of money from commitments and from “weekly loose offerings, would be sufficient to cover the month to month and year to year “Operations Expenses of the HOH Church, including pastors, all staff, heat, light water trash, copy paper snow removal and on and on. The current false narrative of keeping dipping into the Endowment, provides false hope to those that follow us, that “there will always be an infinite supply of cash which will be available to depend on. I rather expect with the current inflationary environment and the low financial returns, don’t count on it. HOH church trustees have to wake up, and be more responsible, instill of knowing they will not be around when the doomsday clock tolls.
- Reduce number of staff to accommodate the budget.
- The education wings and all other space that have major used are fitted with sprinklers or fire suppression. As a result, our insurance is lowered, and spaces in the building are rented out for earned income.
- This space is secured with fire suppression system or sprinklers so is also can be rented out.
- Hire a minister who can and will attract new members while retaining old members.
- I dream of a head of staff/head pastor with a strong vision who might collaborate with other clergy on staff, staff and lay leadership to develop a unified approach for House of Hope’s support in multiple ways—how might we better enhance lives of those in need with a unified approach?



# A House Rethinking How It Works

## A Culture that Supports Agility & Growth



### In your own words: ***“If resources were not an obstacle, what is your dream for the future of House of Hope?”***

- Committees should be encouraged to become more effective (smaller), more diverse and more inclusive (age, gender, skill). The committees should look like the membership and/or the desired membership; if we want more younger families, then younger parents should be sought out for participation. Enforcing tenure limitations on committees and mentorship of incoming participants could encourage wider participation and make room for new participants.
- Better information about committee purposes/goals, time commitments, and special knowledge/talents “required” could reduce the fear of joining. Unless you were raised a Presbyterian (I was not), then Session, Deacon, Elder, etc. are a scary mystery. And there seem to be other committees that don’t seek/advertise for others to be involved?
- An attitude and culture of “we can do this” prevails. The barriers set by a few—commonly called “they” or them” that are deciding everything is eroded. There is transparency and we take advantage of the opportunities.
- I would like to use member-skills more effectively. Perhaps create a database of people with skills and availability; if volunteering becomes a burden, then hire/ outsource to provide necessary support.
- We make decisions based on common shared values—there are probably on 4-6 of them and sustainability is one of them for sure.
- There are fewer committees and leaders have learned how to have difficult conversations with skill and respect.
- We say “yes” how can we? Rather than “no we can’t because “
- Cultural shift ... a realization that it will take an entire re-thinking, re-orienting toward a new future
- I would like to see us reach beyond our geographic footprint and build our remote and virtual presence to members who snowbird or are not very mobile, families who for a variety of scheduling challenges can still interact with our youth and family programs, visitors who love our message, music, service style, enrichment offerings and spiritual education, support, and fellowship during the week. I think we scratched the surface of broadening our reach during covid and we should leverage what we learned from that experience. Church does not have to be in person.
- I dream of our congregation coming together to share in person worship and I wonder how lives might be touched by recommitting to God and our faith and having that shared worship experience be central to our relationships.
- That we continue a traditional service as the “anchor” earlier followed by a more contemporary style service that attracts younger folks or those interested in an open less formally structured service. I love the traditional service and have attended many youths based/focused services with live bands and visiting ministers with my adult children. It’s fun and rewarding, not my style or preference but it works to touch parishioners’ hearts and souls. What about an outdoor service 3 or 4 times during decent weather (1 per season?). Maybe crazy fun? Short, good music (congregation singing beautiful traditional hymns and maybe amplified guitars—horns—keyboard) simple message and offer loaves of bread to any visitors stopping by to see our outdoor service? Spread the good word with a gift of bread to strangers (note: perhaps a smaller loaf than full size)



# This House Connects People

## Multigenerational, Inclusive, Compassionate



### In your own words: ***"If resources were not an obstacle, what is your dream for the future of House of Hope?"***

- It could be wonderful if HOH would have a vibrant, energetic congregation of young families and longstanding enthusiastic members. A group which would be working together to provide ongoing mission outreach and active involvement in our community. And, of course, continue with our incredible music programs!
- Deepen our relationship with Macalester College by capturing the energy and imagination of students in collaborative ways.
- I dream of kids again in church sitting with their families, making little noises, running up and down the aisles. We are too sober a group, too gray/white haired
- Establish Youth Church.
- Multicongregation church home in the building (e.g., Presbyterian, Muslim, non-denominational).
- A more diverse congregation. Perhaps more activities with the community
- Since older people no longer drive or have to use a cane or walker or who are forgotten in church activities—just simply offer a coffee social get together during the daytime hours of the church. Program or purpose? Perhaps one of the ministers sitting among attendees and getting up to read a Bible scripture or an interesting article or portions of a favorite book. Or perhaps Aaron playing the piano for a few minutes or anyone who might be interested in a thoughtful few minutes with the elderly who have served this church so faithfully.
- Establish Youth Saturday Soccer Team for youth 13-17 years old.
- I dream of fellowship and fun and wonder how our congregation might be inspired by hosting parties at church for fun, candy canes in the Kirk Parlor during advent, celebrating milestones such as Bibles for kids, confirmation, and Baptisms in service and throughout the morning on Sundays.
- Resurrect the practice of small HoH groups/ members that meet at individual personal homes to enjoy an evening of dining in each other's company, and to interact socially and for connectiveness and inclusion.
- Perhaps twice a month during daytime hours of the church. And also look at all of the Presbyterian facilities where HOH members reside or anywhere near the church—are home bound and no longer drive a car. Provide transportation for them to come to church on Sunday mornings. Not everyone can access services on their TV or can access Zoom. Something to say "we have not forgotten you and all the gifts you have given to our church.
- A bus to get senior to church and home after
- HoH has an urgent need to hire a person to work with our teenagers and young people, including young families. Kiera has been doing a stellar job but shouldn't have to do both jobs. We want to be a welcoming place for people of all ages including young families
- I would like to see a space at church that welcomed all in and for community strengthening after our service. I would also like to see our wonderful church space be used by our outside community in ways that help others feel like HOH is familiar and that they too belong



# Church Staff Sees and Cares About This House

## Staff dreams too. We listened . . . and took notes.







***Renewing,  
repurposing,  
opening up  
all the spaces***





***An energized  
campus,  
filled with  
life, learning,  
and services***



***Kitchen,  
cooking, and  
community is  
at the heart of  
The House***





***A living  
theology and  
rich tradition  
ground us,  
yet challenges  
us to keep  
developing***



***Gothic  
and green:  
Embodying  
care for our  
corner of  
the earth***



***Opening doors,  
doing good, a  
hub for justice  
and healing***



***Innovative  
partnerships,  
new funding—  
financially  
self-sustaining***





A photograph of a church interior. In the background, a large, colorful stained glass window is illuminated. In the foreground, a choir of people in white robes is performing on a stage. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

***Intentionally  
multi-  
generational,  
inclusive,  
compassionate***



***Nurturing  
relationships  
with  
each other,  
neighbors,  
friends***



***The culture  
supports agility  
and growth—  
embraces the  
future***



# What's Next?

- The “Developing for the Future” Work Group will continue working with the congregation to distill **The Vision**
- Church-wide **Informational Meetings** will include detailed HVAC construction schedules and other key information
- Architects will deliver a comprehensive **Building Use Plan** that dovetails with the HVAC schedule
- A **Senior Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)** will be recruited and elected, no later than Spring 2023

*All of us Will Keep Dreaming, Talking and Sharing*  
**Add More Ideas *HERE*:**

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