

*There is a sweet spot between the known
and the unknown where originality happens;
the key is to be able to linger there without panicking.*
– Ed Catmull

Moderator’s Report 2023

The majority of our effort in 2022.2023 – both as a staff/leadership team and as a congregation - has been to reboot the unique mission and ministries that Sanctuary is known for (arts, outreach/service, and civic engagement for justice) adjusting for the often challenging environment in which we find ourselves (post pandemic) while we further invested in the partnership with Hillside.

On behalf of the stewardship and sustainability of our resources, we completed a thoughtful and thorough 6 month long discernment process from which we have developed a recommendation to stay the course in our ministry while we pursue a dynamic merger with Hillside Community Church. The details of the recommendation being presented to the 2023 Sanctuary UCC Annual Congregational Meeting can be found [here](#).

Through wide ranging questionnaire and interview input from our own stakeholders and the wider community, our discernment process:

- Defined our Why: Who we are, our values, and who we serve
- Discovered what we want for the future
- Explored how we engage now and what we want for the future
- Listed the pain points we are experiencing currently
- Translated all of this into three (3) possible directions for our ministry and mission.

The process gave us a clear picture of our current Ministry and Mission (page 9 of recommendation):

Our Current Ministry and Mission:



A. Pastor in the City	B. Faith & Art	C. City Partnerships	D. Merged Ministry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant/Fundraising (3) • UCC Leader (2) • Pastoral Care City (2) • Pres. Interfaith (2) • Civic Leadership (2) • Social Justice Lead (2) • Chaplain/Voice of Love & Justice (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gallery Installation (5) • Gallery Events (5) • Faith & Film (3) • Faith & Film Family (3) • Hands-On/Make Art (3) • Community Art (4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interfaith Gatherings (Vigils/Responses, PRIDE/MLK) (2) • Food Mission: Micropantry, BOL Pantry, Thanksgiving Drive) (5) • Adult Formation (Book & Spirituality Groups) (4) • Fiduciary (Safe Medford, MOAddictin.) (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship (5) • Messy Church (4) • Sacred Music (4) • Community Meals/Socials (1) • Pastoral Care Church (2) • am2pm Youth (5) • OWL Youth (1) • Bread of Life Meals (1)
Total “Lift” (15) 20%	Total “Lift” (23) 31%	Total “Lift” (14)19%	Total “Lift” (23) 31%

Considering the future we seek and the pain points affecting sustainability, the Discernment team considered these options:



(3) Options for our Future Mission and Ministry:

Programs and Pain Points	1: Sanctuary "As Is"	2: Outreach & Arts	3: Dynamic Merger
A. Programs: Pastor in the City	Yes	Yes	Yes - future state (ROI)
B. Programs: Faith and Art	Yes	Yes	Yes - future state (ROI)
C. Programs: Partnerships/City	Yes	Yes	Yes - future state (ROI)
D. Programs: Partnership/HCC	Yes	No	Yes - future state (ROI)
PP1: Sustainable Finances	No - unless address pain points	Yes- w. addtl. income	Yes - future state
PP2: Sustainable Volunteer	No - unless address pain points	Yes	Yes
PP3: Sustainable Staff	No - unless address pain points	Yes	Yes - future state
PP4: Increased Membership	No - unless address pain points	Yes - with non-religious	Yes
PP5: Increased Impact	No - unless address pain points	Yes - for groups served	Yes
PP6: Settled, at Peace	No - until we address pain points	Yes - for groups served	Yes

In collaboration with the leadership of Hillside Community Church we recommended option 3: Dynamic Merger as the best way to honor our call to be the unique church we have envisioned while providing a path to long term sustainability.

In hope and faith,

Christy L. Miller
 Moderator
 June 24, 2023