

VISIONING AD HOC COMMITTEE

(June, 2023)

This Committee is asked to provide leadership in developing a vision for potential redevelopment of programs and physical facilities at Westworth that will allow the congregation to continue as an important community of faith in the River Heights community and beyond for years to come. These plans may include new partners or programs in our building that may ease the way for future redevelopment. This will be done with consideration of the needs of the congregation and larger community. Consultation as required with other Teams and Committees within the Westworth governance structure is highly recommended to ensure that this is a process that fosters a sense of cooperation, transparency, and ownership.

Ministry of this Committee:

- Is to be accomplished respecting Westworth's mission, core values, and policies
- Is to meet annual goals within approved annual budget
- Is to be done in consultation with the Council, Ministry Teams and Committees that may be affected by their actions and decisions.

Rationale:

It has become increasingly clear that the Congregation of Westworth United Church (WUC) is dealing with diminishing resources in terms of membership, personal energy, and finances. The Congregation understands that changes need to happen to do the work we still feel called to accomplish.

Opportunities were explored to repurpose/reconstruct/replace the west side of the building. These efforts were met with roadblocks that, at the time, appeared insurmountable.

An opportunity to sell the west portion of the building, with a view to using the proceeds of the sale to renovate the east side to suit current needs of the congregation proved to not be financially viable.

At the Annual General Meeting in March 2023, a Visioning document was discussed and the following outline was adopted by the congregation:

- Over a 3-5 year time frame, Westworth United Church should be transformed into a community hub serving the River Heights area and advancing the mission of the Church.
- Westworth United Church would be an integral component in the hub and would continue its current activities.
- Other components of the hub may include an early learning centre (i.e., day care) and a centre focused on promoting the health and well-being of seniors, broadly defined. Additional components consistent with the mission of WUC may be added.

The Visioning Committee, as already constituted, was asked to turn its focus to these points as no one committee in the current administrative structure of WUC had the mandate or responsibility for these tasks.

Responsibilities:

Work with the Westworth Council, Leadership team and others to identify and recommend:

- Necessary changes and additions in responsibilities of the various teams and committees currently in place
- Needs in terms of personnel, expertise and experience necessary to complete tasks in the process
- Members in the congregation who have the expertise, experience and interest who may be approached to aid in the process.

Consider and recommend how the congregation can raise awareness of Westworth's work and contributions to the local community.

Develop on-going, trusting relationships with other local community building groups (e.g., Corydon Community Centre, seniors' groups, Families Forward, etc.)

Form a non-profit corporation to:

- Provide the administrative structure for the hub
- Facilitate fund-raising through grant writing and other means
- Hire staff (initially under the auspices of WUC, eventually transitioning to the non-profit corporation) at least part-time and moving toward full-time, to identify and apply for grants and to manage the day-to-day activities of the hub
- Seek potential partners in the community that are willing to join with us organizationally in the medium to long-term.

Identify bodies that grant funds for projects such as ours and initiate grant applications until such time as there is paid staff to accomplish the task.

Accountability/Reporting timeline:

The Visioning Committee is responsible to the Council and Membership of Westworth United Church, and will:

- Take notes or minutes at each of their meetings and distribute to the Leadership Team
- Provide a written or oral report at monthly Council meetings
- Consult with Ministry Team Leaders and Committee Chairs as necessary for advice and to engage the whole team in Visioning activities

Membership:

A minimum of five members with the autonomy to add members with necessary skills and expertise as the need arises.

Term: 2-year term, renewable as needed