

EXPLORING SCOPE AND PROCESS FOR AESTHETICS – 4/9/18

History

Initially the Design Committee (DC) made decisions similar to those included in this packet. The intention was always to be as inclusive as possible and input was welcome from anyone. After moving into our new home, an Ad Hoc group of DC members continued to make decisions. When the Facilities Cluster was formed, an Interior Committee was established. For continuity, it consisted of three former DC members plus chair, Chris Atkin. Without a real mandate, the committee dissolved after his death. Other representatives on the Facilities Cluster approached decisions mainly from a practical or technical approach with less attention to aesthetics. After Scott's arrival it became apparent that there was no process or group to make decisions such as replacing faded and tattered flags. An Internet search showed that many UU congregations have Aesthetics Committees. A proposal for establishing an Aesthetics Committee for UUFCO was made to the Facilities Committee and approved by the board in October. The purpose was:

To maintain the vision and integrity of our building and grounds, to ensure that the physical environment is welcoming, informative for members, friends and visitors, and visually and spiritually pleasing.

The board was given a list of proposed members and qualifications. The original committee included Virlene Arnold, Marty Rudolph, Julia Cristoferson, and Dale Clark as chair. Dennis Lazzar and Joe Maier were added later and Marty resigned due to conflict with board duties. We are open to adding another member to increase diversity.

An Aesthetics Committee statement was drafted in February and circulated and refined in March. Aesthetics met with Scott, staff members, representatives from the board and Healthy Congregations in a quest to determine that we are all on the same page and to clarify process for decision-making. It was determined that the Board would establish a process.

This document is intended to give the Board an idea of what projects we have been considering to be part of our scope and our process to date.

Projects

The following pages include background, status, and current or suggested process of a sampling of ongoing and possible future projects.

1. Flags
2. Protecting the building from wear & tear
3. Exterior Signage
4. Furniture Selection
5. Little Free Library
6. Peace Pole
7. Seasonal Decorations
8. Memorial Benches/Garden

Also in Scope

Aesthetics and ART are collaborating to develop an inclusive process for the selection and integration of permanent art into our building and grounds. Joint meetings and discussions have begun exploring potential projects and priorities.

Questions

- Who has final decision-making authority? Does that depend on the project itself?
- How do we determine what falls within our scope without exceeding boundaries?
- How can communications with others be improved so that we receive feedback in a reasonable time?

*Aesthetics Committee Statement
included at end of document*

CHOOSING FLAGS FOR MONTHLY OR SEASONAL DISPLAY



(winter 2017)



(April 2018)



World Peace



Human Rights Equality



Background: Conditions are harsh on our flags. Custom flags are expensive and last only about a year. Scott suggested perhaps we could fly appropriate 'over-the-counter' flags for brief periods and they could generate discussion. Cost averages \$10. The Aesthetics Committee chose the first two with approval from Scott.

Possible Process: Aesthetics could invite input from congregants and consult with collaborators such as Scott, Social Justice, Board, Art Resource Team (ART) and make decisions/proposals based on appropriateness and design. The flags below are examples of what is available.

Final Decision-maker: ?



19th Amendment Victory flag



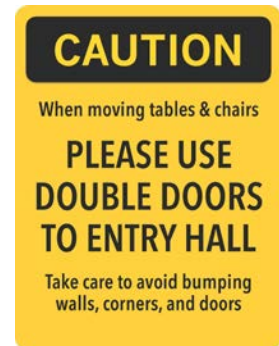
National Woman's Right

REPAIRS: WEAR & TEAR (in progress)

Background: Max and Grace gave Aesthetics a list of areas that were showing signs of damage from wear and tear. They included:

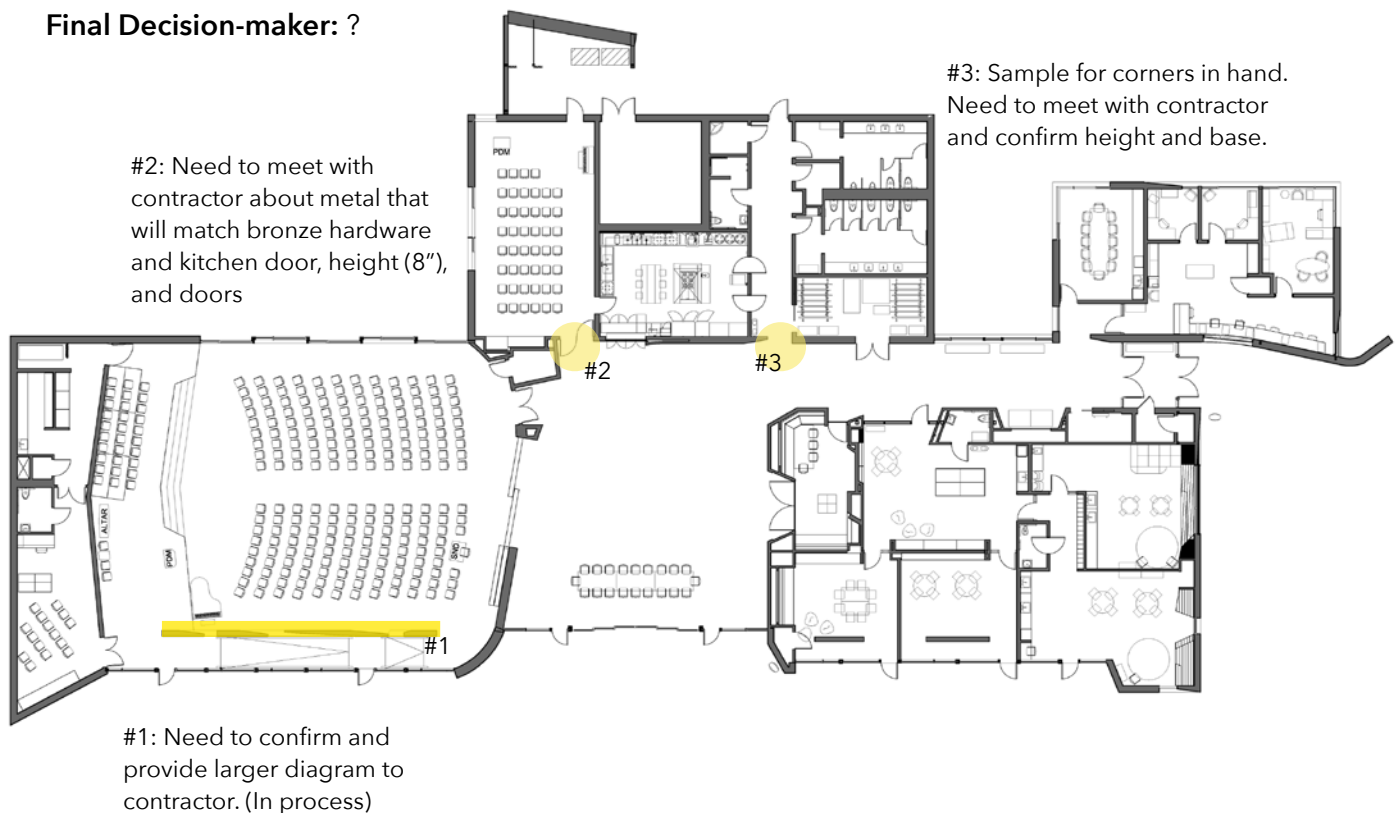
1. Need for baseboard along both sides of the bottom of the mass wall in the sanctuary
2. Need for protection at the base of the carved doors between Gathering Hall and Linus Pauling where tables are scraping the doors.
3. Need for protection on the corners of the opening between Gathering Hall and north service hallway where carts and furniture are hitting the edges.
4. Need for a solution to protect the north wall of the Gathering Hall from furniture and food.

Current Status: Aesthetics proposed fixes for #1-3 to Facilities and repairs were approved by the board as being within the Building Funds budget. #4 is on hold. Responsibility to contact handyman for estimates and discuss details has been given to Aesthetics. Dennis got samples for the corner molding that Hacker suggested and will contact handyman suggested by Jenn to discuss other repairs. In the meantime, several signs have been put in the furniture storage room asking people to use caution when moving furniture.



Process: Aesthetics looked at damage, discussed solutions, made a proposal to Facilities and the Board and will pursue fixes with a handyman. As we understand the process, we will give details and estimates to Jenn for final arrangements. (For other building repairs and maintenance, the Facilities Cluster intends to consult with Aesthetics when work is visible, such as staining siding.)

Final Decision-maker: ?



EXTERIOR SIGNAGE

Background: Initial signage was part of the design process. The need for keeping access for emergency vehicles surfaced when cars were parked on both sides of the driveway. In late summer of 2017 the staff created a “No Parking/Tow Away” sign. It was ready to be installed before Scott arrived, but seemed unwelcoming and harsher than need be, though it followed the verbiage required by the tow company. This was the first project the emerging Aesthetics Committee took on, in consultation with Facilities, staff, Scott, and others—at least 20 people in all. Many revisions were made in quest to be as friendly as possible and still get the necessary message out. As it turned out later, there were still communications problems and not everyone felt heard.

The next project, a sandwich board that was initially intended to say the parking lot was full, was redesigned to be friendlier and display a map with additional parking locations, including Ruffwear lot. It also went through many revisions to accommodate Facilities Committee comments. This was a prime example of conflict between being strictly utilitarian, even if unattractive and impractical, depending on ones viewpoint, and attempting to be more welcoming. It was shown to many people and appeared to be accepted with revisions. Though designed and produced, the sandwich board has not been used and apparently missed approval from a final decision-maker.

Current Status: The Aesthetics Committee understands that exterior signage is within our scope, but needs clarity as to whom the ultimate authority is. We have an additional sign to design to replace the “Welcome, no parking on driveway...” sign on the way out (by the pathway to Skyliners). The intention is to make it larger – 18x24” – and include a simple map for additional parking.

Possible Process: Aesthetics, as part of the Facilities Committee and tasked with looking at the whole picture, could continue to propose designs that meets needs, bring to Facilities and other appropriate people for comment and modifications, and back to Facilities for final approval—unless some other authority is identified.

Final Decision-maker: ?



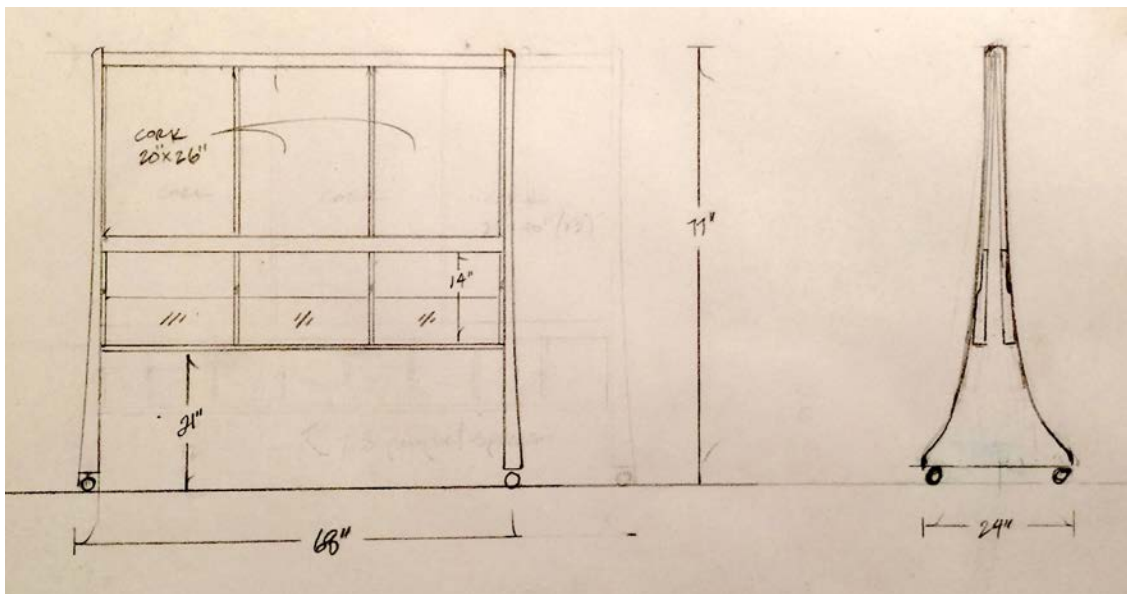
FURNITURE SELECTION & DESIGN

Background: Original furniture selection was by the Design Committee (DC). An ad hoc group of previous DC members worked with Will on the next custom pieces including kiosk and name tag cabinet. Antonia and other committees were consulted on kiosk. The name tag cabinet is an ongoing collaboration with Chela. Shelving and suggestions for new furniture for Scott's office was a collaboration between previous Interior Committee members (earlier on DC) in consultation with Scott.

Current Status: Fulfilling Ayla's request for 10 additional Zuma rockers, colors (Apple Green and Purple Iris) were chosen by a two previous members of the Design Committee (including chair of Aesthetics) and passed by Ayla. Details for the order were given to Jenn to fulfill. An additional table for worship at Scott's request is on hold. Discussion has included Will, Scott, past/current members of DC and Aesthetics. (One more table had originally been intended, but was not built.) This table is on hold pending a meeting between Scott and Will. Name tag cabinet needs further modifications to hold more name tags, but is on hold until consensus with Chela is reached. (Zuma chairs, table, and modification to name tag cabinet were proposed to board and funds approved.) A possible future project might include a rolling bulletin board for posters. An initial preliminary design by Will in 2016/17 needs adaptations after consulting with staff and potential users to create a more flexible and less controlled space than kiosk or initial design. On hold until need established and clarified.



Possible Process: Aesthetics could continue to field requests, consult with users, and discuss with makers or suppliers.



Initial sketch by Will of possible movable poster kiosk. On hold until need and use clarified by users and then would be redesigned. (This one had space for fliers.)

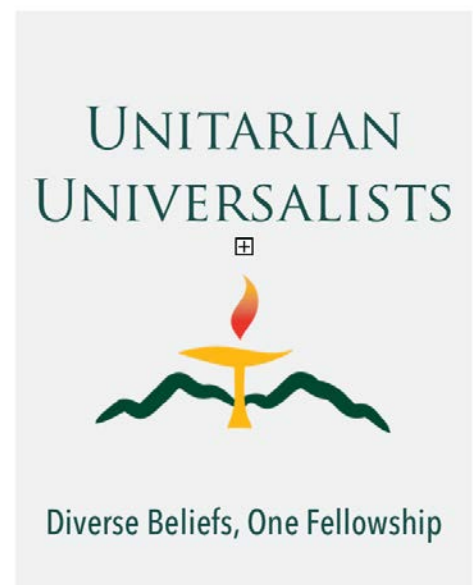
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

Background: During NHP visioning days, the possibility of a Little Free Library was discussed briefly as an outreach for the neighborhood. Because of city signage regulations limiting us to one sign at the entrance on Skyline Ranch Road, the Little Free Library resurfaced as a possible way to get our name visible on the Skyliners side of our building near the bike path. Other than functioning as a typical free library with the philosophy of “Take a book, return a book” the intention would be to include some UUFCO and UUA brochures as a means of introducing ourselves. If we register with Little Free Library for one-time \$40 fee, we will be located on a world map and in a directory and will receive a small plaque that could go on front or on north side depending on design. The library would be located on the path that connects the bike path with our entrance that passes by the flags. We expect it would need regular monitoring. For more information, see <https://littlefreelibrary.org>

Current Status: Aesthetics has begun exploring idea and has run idea by Scott. City regulations were researched by an Aesthetics team member. As long as we stay out of the city right of way and do not exceed 6 feet in height or 4 feet in width, we seem to be okay. Design below is preliminary and open for input. The concept is for the library to tie into the building by using a compatible design and gray stain, and to include our name on the north side of the box.

Possible Process: Aesthetics would consult and collaborate with Facilities, Library, staff, Scott, Social Justice, RE, others, finalize design, and submit a cost estimate to Facilities, Finance Committee, or whomever is deemed appropriate.

Final Decision-maker: ?



PEACE POLE

Background: Peace Poles and Wayside Pulpits were mentioned during NHP visioning workshops and have resurfaced. It has been observed that many people don't notice the paths to the entrance, but walk through the parking lots. It's possible that a way to mark entrances to the paths would make them more visible as well as provide interest. Peace Poles were observed on tours of churches during the NHP. Some were very simple, and others colorful and creative sculptures. Many say "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in 4 or 8 or more languages.

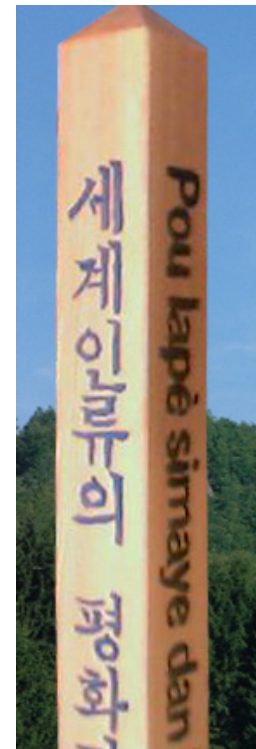
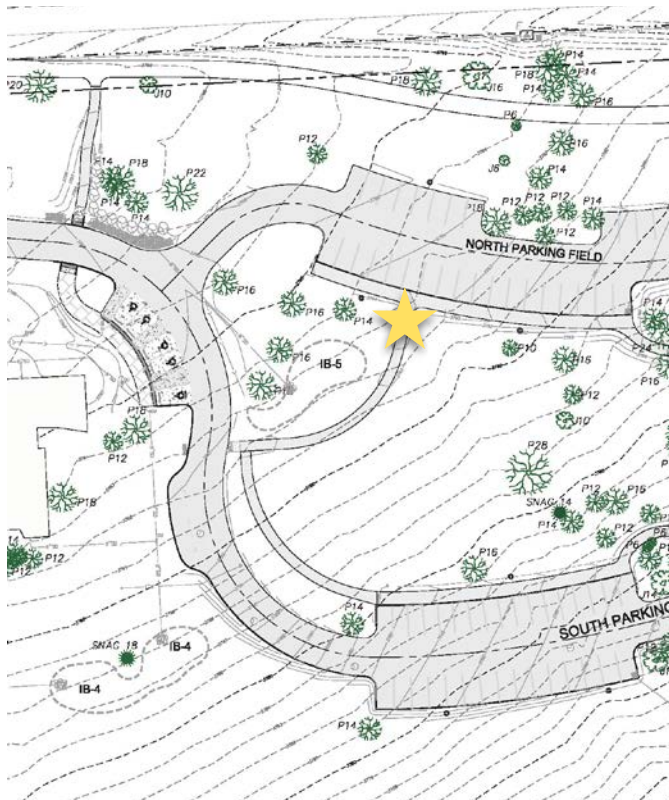
<https://peacepoleproject.org>

<https://www.uua.org/central-east/blog/peace-pole-project-comes-harford-county>

Current Status: New. To be discussed at next meeting.

Possible Process: As a permanent art piece, this would be a collaborative project with ART. Developing an inclusive process for selecting permanent art will be discussed at upcoming joint meeting. Other collaborators would include Land/Facilities. The congregation would be invited to engage. Once design options are finalized and reviewed, cost estimates would be submitted to Facilities, Finance Committee, or whomever is deemed appropriate.

Final Decision-maker: ?



HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

Background: For our first Christmas in our new building, the Design Committee coordinated decorations in the Sanctuary, Gathering Hall, and Entry Hall, following the concept of simple and natural decorations that had been discussed during the design process. The RE space was left to RE folks, though children have been included in making decorations and trimming the Gathering tree each year. The whole congregation has been invited and encouraged to participate with bringing poinsettias in honor of loved ones, signing up at the kiosk for specific jobs, and coming to a tree trimming and caroling event in collaboration with the Congregational Life Facilitator – including folding origami one year and paper chains the next. Hanging outside snowflakes and inside stars started with two people just doing it, but an attempt to transition to new volunteers has begun.

Current Status: Scott asked if coordinating Holiday Decorations should be within scope of the Aesthetics Committee, so was added mid season this year, though the same people had already been coordinating it. Notes, directions, and signups have been kept to keep improving the process and involve more people each year. All decorations and materials have been donated from the beginning, but a budget was proposed for the upcoming year to cover costs of replacing broken strings of lights, damaged snowflakes, batteries for stars, and other expenses.

Possible Process: Aesthetics can continue to plan and work closely with Congregational Life Facilitator to find new volunteers and plan a tree trimming event. Identifying dates for congregation tree trimming and caroling event should be coordinated with staff now (ideally a year ahead in the future).



MEMORIAL BENCHES

Background: A memorial garden was suggested multiple times during NHP visioning workshops and workgroups. At least one congregant has approached Aesthetics and ART about the desire to donate a bench in memory of a loved one.

Current Status: Aesthetics and ART have just begun discussing possibilities. An irrigated garden is not being considered, though enhancing an area with native plants could be. There are many good locations for single benches on our 22 acres. And/or an area could be identified for a cluster of benches that could then be used for small group gatherings. Members of Aesthetics have begun researching durable benches and other factors. It is assumed that people wanting to commemorate loved ones would be making donations to cover cost, but much discussion is needed beyond our committee. Going forward will depend on the board considering a policy on memorials. ***Which should come first—a board policy or a concept?***

Possible Process: Aesthetics would consult and collaborate with congregants who have asked about memorials, as well as ART, Land/Facilities, the board and others, scout locations, research benches, finalize design options, and submit cost estimates to Facilities, Finance Committee, or whomever is deemed appropriate.

Final Decision-maker: Board?

UUFCO Aesthetics Committee Statement

Draft Rev 3/28/18 – aesthetics@uufco.org

Purpose proposed to the board in October of 2017:

To maintain the vision and integrity of our building and grounds, to ensure that the physical environment is welcoming, informative for members, friends and visitors, and visually and spiritually pleasing.

Touchstones

Ideas generated with the intention of clarifying our purpose and establishing a clear mission:

1. Maintain aesthetic integrity of the building and its surroundings
2. Collaborate with ART (Art Resource Team) to integrate permanent art into and around the building
3. Make recommendations to Facilities Cluster regarding the aesthetic longevity and maintenance of the building's interior and exterior spaces
4. Oversee design of signage, flags, future banners
5. Oversee additions of furnishing and fixtures intended to meet the evolving needs for utility while also ensuring strong stewardship of the aesthetic integrity of the building and its surroundings
6. Coordinate installation and removal of interior and exterior seasonal decorations
7. Ensure that any improvements to the grounds are compatible and well integrated into the native landscape and existing topography
8. Bring an intentional eye to being a welcoming place
9. Endeavor to fulfill our purpose with mindful awareness of our UUFCO Covenant

Intentionality

The Aesthetics Committee recognizes our home's primary purpose as providing an inviting and welcome meeting place for the multitude of gatherings and activities of our Congregation, as well as for the greater Central Oregon community. In addition, our home represents an iconic artistic and architectural contribution to our geographic region which, over time, will have significant historical influences as well. With deep gratitude and appreciation for our home, UUFCO has been entrusted with its stewardship. Similarly to how any effective homeowners organization aspires to protect the value of properties within the organization, the Aesthetics Committee aspires to protect and when called to, enhance, the artistic and architectural value of our building and its surroundings.

We see the embodiment of this physical structure and its surroundings as comparable to a modern day cathedral. It invites, with its utilization, much more than a meeting space for our Fellowship and other organizations. It is sacred space.

The Aesthetics Committee is called to perpetuate careful stewardship of all that our home represents, as a meeting place, as a spiritual space inviting awe, and as an iconic artistic and architectural contribution to our geographic region for present and future generations.