

# A Vision for a Thirsting World



*“We drink from wells we did not dig...”  
Now, it’s our time to dig a well for the future!*

Northwest Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
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1025 Mt. Vernon Highway, NW, Sandy Springs, GA 30327  
A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

*We are a Welcoming Congregation with a mission of creating  
loving community, inspiring joy and spiritual growth, and  
supporting courageous action.*



## Digging a Well for the Future



We live in a world that thirsts for the message of Unitarian Universalism. In north Atlanta as elsewhere, people long to join with others in the search for truth and meaning and in courageous action. They desire acceptance, seek encouragement to spiritual growth and look for similarly minded individuals to advance justice and compassion in our society.

Northwest has offered a loving community to hundreds of people who have shared our vision and mission for almost 50 years. We have supported local efforts to feed the hungry, support the marginalized, protect the environment, and ensure dignity, healthcare and shelter for many.

Today, our message—and our work—are more important than ever. Thanks to the bold and overwhelming vote of our congregation to expand our facilities, we now have the opportunity to reach more people and to increase our impact within our congregation, Atlanta and the nation.

Our capital campaign is an investment in our future and in the future we strive together to create for the world. It is a pledge to support our young families and to serve as an example to our children of how to live out our UU principles. It is a logical outgrowth of our stated desire to welcome new members, increase our interfaith work, actively support refugees, and communicate more often and more directly to our elected officials.

The capital campaign represents our commitment to remaining a welcoming oasis, offering refreshment and community to all. Please join us in this important undertaking with a generous pledge.

*We drink from wells we did not dig . . . now it's our turn to dig a well for the future!*

*Mani Subramanian*  
Capital Campaign Chair

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Would we have to find another place for Sunday services during the Sanctuary expansion?** No, the expansion work can be done with a temporary wall against the wall of windows.

**Will our parking lot support a 50% increase in attendance?** Yes, our parking lot will hold 115 cars. Based on an estimate of 1.8 people per car, we can support more than 200 attendees at any event. For occasional events exceeding parking lot capacity, we will manage parking, as in the past, using a nearby church and carpooling.

**Can we improve our lighting in the parking lot?** Yes, it is estimated that it will cost \$20,000 to add additional lights in the lot.

**Does the congregation currently have a mortgage?** No, all of our previous mortgages have been paid in full.

**Can the congregation borrow to fund the expansion?** Yes, the UUA offers congregations low-interest loans for up to five years. We could obtain a commercial mortgage or consider borrowing no-interest, unsecured loans from Northwest members once we receive at least 75% (\$525,000) in pledges.

**Are there grants and loans that Northwest might be able to secure?** We're exploring a Chalice Lighter Grant, short-term bank loans, and no-interest loans from members. The Northwest Endowment Fund may be able to offer a distribution to assist with the expansion.

**What would happen to our Memorial Garden and trees?** We have identified two trees that would have to be removed. The Memorial Garden would be carefully and lovingly relocated and rededicated prior to construction.

**What will happen to the solar array?** The solar array would be removed, stored briefly until new shingles and more insulation were added over the whole sanctuary, and then would be reinstalled.



## Meeting Milestones

### Accomplished

May 21: Congregation approved Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary expansion.

June 30: Received pledges totaling \$371,500.

June 30: Formed Capital Campaign and Steering Committees.

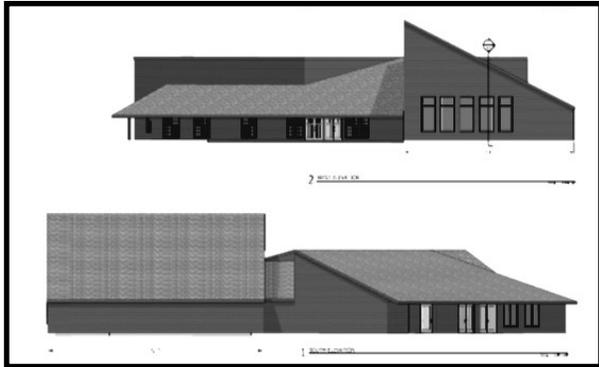
### Future

August 6–September 30: Conduct campaign to raise remaining \$328,500.

November: Complete financial arrangements.

Early 2018: Begin construction.

TBD: Complete construction.



Front and Rear Exterior Views

## Expansion Project Committees

**Capital Campaign Committee:** Mani Subramanian (chair), Kester Chau, Jay Kiskel, Kitty Meyers, and Ruth Subramanian

### Steering Committee

Kristen Fowks and Constance Dierickx (co-chairs), Bill Cox, Glenn Koller, Mary Perloe, David Stewart, and Mani Subramanian

*“Community is where our denomination shines. Our love for each other demands that we be our best selves for each other.” ~ David Stewart*

## Building Community

Our expanded facilities will create an environment in which we can build community in the broadest sense. The capital campaign will allow us to:

- **Shine brightly as a beacon for Unitarian Universalism**, attracting those who share our principles and welcoming visitors with seating for more than 250 people. With additional space, we can enthusiastically “reach out in love” to engage more people in our mission and embrace new members.
- **Get to know each other better** over coffee hour, dinners and potlucks with abundant space regardless of weather. Tables and space that allow lingering, in-depth conversations and seating, especially for those who are older or less mobile, will help us build the beloved community we desire.
- **Step up our courageous action** in the world through efforts we develop ourselves and with partner organizations by offering more space for us to meet and host programs.
- **Connect with the surrounding community** by providing rentable space for personal use such as weddings and group use for meetings.
- **Increase financial support for our programming and staff** through greater rental fees made possible with the larger, better configured space.
- **Share the joy** found at Northwest UUC. For so many we know and for so many we have yet to meet, Northwest offers community, serenity, acceptance, an all-inclusive message, opportunities for service, fertile ground for spiritual growth, and a place to raise compassionate and committed children.

*“Just the fact that the congregation exists – that you are there – makes a huge difference in my life and, probably, whether or not you realize it, in your lives too. The generosity unknowingly expressed by each of you – by being there – is a blessing that we all share and of which we all partake.” ~ Glenn Koller*

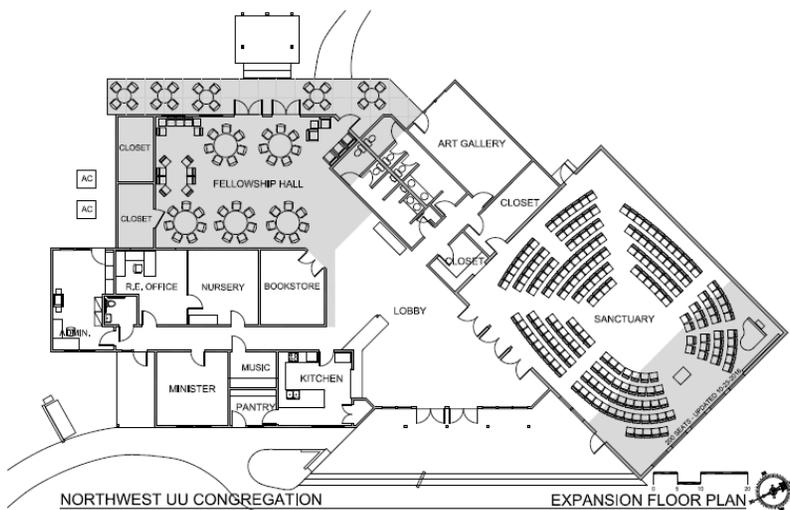
## Living Our Principles

The plans for expanding our Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall reflect our vision and values.

**The construction will provide a healthier, more sustainable environment for all.** During construction, we will add insulation and replace the roof. Additional environmental upgrades and efficiencies will ensure that the building can be sustainably maintained for generations to come. Green building practices will be emphasized.

**The plans enable individuals with mobility constraints to fully participate in programs and social events with dignity.** Larger aisles in the Sanctuary and more space in the Lobby and Fellowship Hall will accommodate wheelchairs and walkers. The renovated restrooms will include fully accessible stalls, sinks and hand dryers.

**The expansion improves our current facility with respect for both our financial and natural resources.** It will allow us to stay in our current location for years, perhaps generations, without needing to prepare a new property or abandoning “our home in the woods.” The congregational vote requires that we obtain pledges for 75% of the cost of the expansion before we break ground or borrow for construction.



## Keeping Our Commitments

Successful capital campaigns typically raise 50% to 70% of their goals in the pre-campaign phase from a few key donors. We have received \$371,500 of our \$700,000 goal or 53% of our budget through 13 lead pledges. To maintain our mortgage-free status, we need to raise an additional \$328,500.

Please consider the importance of Northwest in your life, your commitment to the message and mission of Unitarian Universalism, and the future of our congregation as you contemplate your capital campaign commitment.

*“Northwest has been like a family for me. I feel the warmth of the congregation and the building itself when I am there. The more I give to Northwest, the more blessings I receive in return.” ~ Lil Woolf*

Paying a campaign pledge over a three-year period enables many people to make a more generous contribution than they could otherwise, so we encourage you to weigh this option.

### Levels of Giving

**What level gift can you fulfill?**

