

*This short talk was given by Linda Mager, President of the UUFH Board of Directors on Sunday, October 2, 2005 after the vote to empower the board to purchase the property on 64W and Yale Road.*

What comes next?

Many thanks to the people who have been a part of our UUFH long range plan. Many thanks to the people who were part of the strategic plan phase I and to those working now in the strategic plan 2. We have done a wonderful job of making our dreams take form. Many thanks to the presenters today. Their reports and answers to questions today are just a part of the many hours of work and research they have done. Thank you. Without the participation from each of you a part of this congregation, we would not continue to grow and serve as Unitarian Universalist. Thank you for being here and participating.

What happens next? We continue to set the parameters of growing this congregation and defining whom we are and what we do in order to become a more visible community within Henderson County, our region and our world. The board accepts the challenges of negotiating for the property on 64W and Yale Road. Then we will begin to manage that property and the resources it brings.

UUFH will raise the money to buy property. The VISION fund gets us started. You will have the opportunity to help raise that money needed for purchase of this property in a fund drive. Before the purchase of this property in early 2006 we will work to raise at least ½ of the purchase price within this congregation.

Our present space is buzzing and often filled to capacity. There is not enough space for us here on Kanuga and Patterson. We will continue to define what we do to accommodate the strains of space and more people and more activities. The board has appointed a group to recommend the process of incorporating multiple services into what we do. In the mean time we will continue to assess the full-to-overflowing parking spaces on our campus.

The process will continue with the Strategic planning, phase II. The design phase will begin as we further define our mission into the ideals and actions we want to step us into our future. We will look at our mission statement and further define our religious identity, how we want to value our diversity, and how we the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hendersonville will contribute to impact our local community and the world community.

For UUFH is not a building or land on which a building rests. UUFH is a thriving community of individuals who encourage the search for ethical, moral and spiritual meaning, support the pursuit of religious identity, and value our diversity. We come together to celebrate life and contribute to the greater community. Buildings and land are resources in pursuit of our mission.

The plans for new physical facility will not overshadow the work we do in this liberal, religious community. We will worship together, work and plan together. Our past, the work and planning of today become the steps to our future.

UUA President Sinkford in his report to the General Assembly this summer in Fort Worth, Texas says.

I believe that we are called to offer a liberal religious alternative. I am not willing, nor should you be, to cede the moral high ground to religious fundamentalists, of any faith tradition, who preach that there is only one way to be religious, only one scripture worthy of being followed, only one way to be a family, only one way to lead a good life. There must be a liberal religious alternative. And, my friends, we're it.

Next week we celebrate our tradition and the founding of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hendersonville. Good work today toward stepping into the next 25 years.