

What is the Pressing Need?

Inadequacy of Current Space for Children and Youth

Young people want and benefit from the same church experience that adults do: The experience of spiritual transformation; participation in an authentic community; and opportunities to change the world. Their Religious Education program is tailored to those needs: instilling the values on which the world's future must depend, reinforcing their appreciation of the inherent worth and dignity of each person including themselves, and building their resilience and leadership skills.

But here's the crux of the problem: There is no room large enough for the all-ages-combined worship service which is a fundamental part of the Sunday experience for children and youth - except for the too-large and busy Community Room in the Jones Building, which is so cavernous and noisy that it's intimidating to young children especially, and inhibits a feeling of spiritual intimacy. That single large room is also pressed into service for two separate-age classes, challenging children in both classes with boundary and distraction



issues. AND, the lack of accessibility in the Jones Building is a major concern.

Staff and volunteers are dedicated and make the most of the situation, accomplishing awesome results that are highly regarded as a model for other UU churches. With enrollment of 172 bursting at the seams, it is sadly apparent that the facility's daunting challenges are an obstacle to participation by youngsters (and their parents) who otherwise want and need what our program offers.

Inadequacy of Current Space for Adults

We have a robust program of spiritual exploration for adults, for which accessible space to hold classes and covenant groups is in short supply. Moreover, the competition for space among some 23 adult church groups who meet regularly, and 28 committees who meet irregularly, throughout the week, is a constraint on every program's natural flourishing in support of our mission, and constrains us from sharing meeting opportunities with groups from the wider community.