

Update on Co-Location with First Universalist from MJ Gilbert & Gayle Zoffer, Board of Trustees
October 2018

Dear beloved Shir Tikvah Community,

We are so grateful to those of you who brought your questions, hopes, concerns, and passion to the three recently-completed information sessions concerning the process we are beginning with the community at the First Universalist Church at 3400 Dupont Ave. S. to explore if co-location is feasible and serves our separate communities and shared visions. As you know, this process has no foregone conclusions, although we have committed to exploring co-location with an open heart and an eye toward solving problems. The questions and concerns, as well as the hopes and excitement that you have communicated are all ones that the rabbis, staff, executive committee and board of trustees share. The work will be ongoing; some of you will be asked to engage in that work, and the entire congregation will be involved in the ultimate decision-making.

Some of you may not have been able to make it to one of the recent information sessions. For this reason, our president Bruce Manning has created a document summarizing the presentation he gave at the meetings, along with an addendum that parallels the collective thinking-and-responding exercise attendees participated in. That document can be accessed [here](#).

In order to create as much space as possible to hear your hopes, excitement, questions and concerns, we are re-opening the feedback email address sthopesanddreams@gmail.com (that is, ST Hopes and Dreams, get it?) that we used in a deliberative process that resulted in the wildly successful hire of Rabbi Lekach-Rosenberg.

In the best traditions of this community, we expect that your comments and questions, whether you lean towards or away from the idea of co-location, will be framed respectfully and constructively. As is the case with the signed and written feedback you gave at the information sessions, comments and questions posed through the email will be brought back to the board and various work groups that will be developed along the way.

The email address is not meant to initiate conversations with specific rabbis, staff, officers or board members. If you feel called to initiate such a conversation, please contact the person you want to have that conversation with.

We are committed to transparency and integrity in this exploration and work, and as we pose and find answers to our many questions, we will be sharing them with you.

Thank you for being part of this process of evolution. Thank you for being Shir Tikvah.

MJ Gilbert and Gayle Zoffer