

Hillhurst United Church: 2019 AGM

What's Next?: Expanding the Conversation

Over the past two months both the Board and Staff team have engaged in discussions about the possible future directions for ministry at Hillhurst. The following is a brief summary of five possible directions (in no particular order) that have emerged from these discussions.

1. Be the Change.

Be the Change we wish to see in Religion. Which means to be open and transparent about what we do; model, embody an alternative expression of healthy religion in the world; learn from our mistakes, partner and network with other congregations and faith communities, support a movement toward expressions of healthy religion. This work will be enabled by our commitment to a *"PUBLIC THEOLOGY"* and *being a Church without Walls*.

2. Expand Hillhurst.

We have been asked to consider supporting a satellite congregation or developing a partnership with an existing congregation that may be struggling to continue. We have held very preliminary conversations about exploring the possibilities this kind of partnership. Is this a call, an obligation or a distraction? This option would require expanding staff and volunteers to support another congregation in a different part of the city and a commitment of three years toward 'replanting'.

3. Going Deeper.

Expanding and developing our current ministry including:
Moving further in Right Relations work; multicultural ministry; integrating a feminist and ecological worldview into our ministry; deepening Affirming ministry; Children and Youth; Differing Abilities; Intergenerational connections; Contemplative Ministry Expanded; Social Justice: build on our prophetic voice; pay more attention to our neighbourhood; build leadership capacity to support the future we imagine for our city and world; Focus on health and wellness and how it relates to our spirituality

4. Leadership Events

HUC takes on role as a catalyst, educator, influencer of good religion to build leadership capacity for supporting the change we want to see in the world; how to do Progressive inclusive church for 21st century? What are new models for Staffing / Leadership / ways of doing and being to promote good healthy expressions of religion?

5. Rebuild and repurpose existing Hillhurst building

Re-examine Architectural Fair results and rebuild west annex to fit changing and growing needs.

Board Proposed Criteria for Decision Making

The Board identified a number of key criteria that should support the Board's decision making as we work together to make strategic choices about our future. These criteria included:

- Is it possible?
- Is there energy/passion to move in this direction (among leadership? Within the congregation/community?)
- Does this option allow us to remain open to other opportunities?
- Does it allow us to grow as a community grounded in an open progressive and inclusive gospel?
- Does this opportunity call us to be courageous?
- Does it allow us to radiate our light in the world? (don't put your light under a bushel)
- Is it aligned with the interests of the congregation?
- Does it stretch us, inviting us into true, authentic growth without risking burnout?

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Feedback Sheet

Summary of Five Potential Directions for Future Ministry:

Please take a moment to number the five directions based on your priority order ("1" being the most important for you and "5" being the least important at this time). This is not a vote but just to give us an indication of what directions you are either most excited about or are most important for us to focus on going forward.

Priority

Order:

- ☐ A) Be the Change we wish to see in Religion.
- ☐ B) Expand Hillhurst: Grow by developing a partnership with another congregation
- ☐ C) Going Deeper: Expanding and developing our current ministry
- ☐ D) Leadership Events: taking on role as a catalyst, educator, influencer of good religion to build leadership capacity
- ☐ E) Rebuild and repurpose existing Hillhurst building

Discussion Questions:

Which directions identified above give you hope or get you excited about future ministry at Hillhurst?

What concerns you? What risks would you identify about any of these directions? What questions do you have?

Are there any other directions would you suggest we consider for future ministry?

To provide more feedback please use the back of this sheet or go to:
hillhurstunited.com/feedback