

WHY HAVE A VISIONING PROCESS?

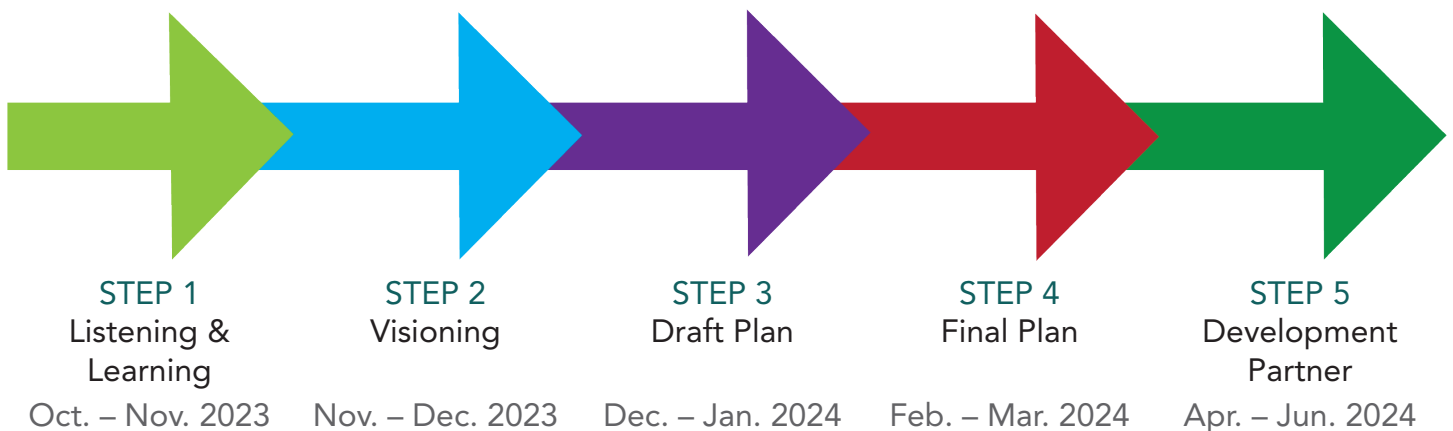
Our city is facing a housing crisis. As a result, First Presbyterian Church is shifting its missional focus to explore possible uses of our vast resources (building and land) to meet our community's housing needs. Doing so will have significant, positive community impact, and it will also offer the church long-term financial sustainability to continue serving our most vulnerable neighbors.



WHAT IS THE VISIONING PROCESS ABOUT?

First Presbyterian Church is working to create a vision for the future of the property. The Church selected COLLABO and Urban Ventures to lead a planning process that is inclusive, iterative, and centered on building trust and capacity for the next chapter of the Church's story with a strong focus on mixed-income housing.

WHAT WILL THE PROCESS LOOK LIKE?



WHO ARE WE GOING TO ENGAGE?

We will listen and learn from the project Steering Committee, congregation members, neighbors, and other stakeholders in the community to identify core goals, create a vision, and outline action steps for implementation of the Plan. We want to hear from you, after all, you are the experts of your own community!



HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

We are going to gather input and feedback in several different ways. We will host listening sessions, community meetings, a vision survey, and participate in smaller Steering Committee Meetings. All project-related materials will be posted on the Church's website and shared through social media.



HOW LONG WILL THIS PLANNING PROCESS TAKE?

The planning process will kick off in October of 2023 and is expected to last approximately nine months. The first six months will be dedicated to creating the Vision Plan, with the final three months dedicated to determining financial feasibility and selecting a development partner to help execute the vision.

HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE CHURCH BUILDING FEASIBILITY STUDY?

The Feasibility Study, currently underway, will examine potential improvements and programs for the existing interior spaces of the building. The Vision Plan will integrate these recommendations into a broader campus-wide vision for the entirety of the Church property.



HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO BROADER CITY OF BETHLEHEM GOALS?

The City recently completed a study that determined there is a significant unmet need for affordable and mixed-income housing in the broader community. The Vision Plan will seek to identify and outline opportunities for new high-quality housing on portions of the Church campus, in tandem with open space and circulation improvements.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS?

Associate Pastor for Justice and Community Impact

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