

How do we create a robust community in view of our constrained resources for the next 3 to 5 years?

Application for the Sharing the Faith grant. To support Beacon in fostering a sense of community between our beloved church and the larger community while developing deeper connections with our fellow Beaconites. To recognize that Beacon is an active and vibrant church community and that Sapperton Hall is our church home.

Generating and sustaining belonging in our community.

Sunday services

- Warm and sincere welcoming to all arriving
- Volunteers at Greeters table can be expanded to include Newcomer Hosts and Stealth Greeters. After being welcomed by the Sunday Greeter a newcomer will be given to a Newcomer host who will accompany the newcomer to their seats, offer friendly chat and introduce them to the person seated beside them. Impromptu Greeters will continue the warm greeting after the service, perhaps specifically asking what brought the newcomer to Beacon.
- Members arriving will be encouraged to speak to another member. This will be made simpler if people are standing with a morning coffee.
- Each aspect of the worship service, eg. opening words, hymns, readings, story, etc., will be updated to have a 50+ age focus.
- We will be accessible:
 - Hearing assistance devices or possible use of Bluetooth connectivity
 - Seating in the hall will allow those who are less mobile or in need of mobility assistance to find the rows and aisles spaced to accommodate their movement.
 - Use of optimal print sizing for OOS and hymns
- Volunteers will be partnered in their tasks. Volunteers are most likely to continue in their roles if partnered and not alone in the task. Working with another provides everyone with friendship and community building opportunities. Newcomers can be asked to participate in Sunday tasks if partnered.
- Greeters can be asked to take on the task for repeated Sundays to allow for a sense of competency to develop and so that newcomers see familiar faces upon their arrival.

- Greeter training guidelines and instruction sessions should be updated and re instated.

- Availability of CUC printed material and current Beacon newsletters to be explored.

- Beacon will open discussions with 5 area churches as to how they find success in welcoming newcomers and look for possible partners with common programming.

- Beacon will open discussions with service groups, senior groups as to how they find success in welcoming newcomers.

Priority 1 Items

Timeline, Markers of Success, Financial Requirements and Volunteer Needs:

March to June 2024 –

- Introduce and explain reason for these changes with the goal that new practices will be agreed upon for the new church year beginning September 2024. These activities explore increasing the volunteer base. No costs.
- Contact Joan re old greeter training manual. Review and update as needed.
- Speak to congregation re new positions of Newcomer Hosts and Impromptu Greeters. Assess viability of roles.
- Examine our accessibility. Speak to members and visitors with mobility and/or hearing needs

Priority 2 Items

Timeline, Markers of Success, Financial Requirements and Volunteer Needs

September 2024

- Worship service (opening words, hymns, readings, story, etc) will be updated to a 50+ focus.
- Educate the congregation about volunteering positions, use of partnerships, etc to see if we can elicit more volunteers
- Include newcomers in 'the ask'
- Annual survey question to examine accessibility during Sunday services

Beacon This Week Community Bulletin Board: To be visible in Sapperton Hall each Sunday. The same information should also appear in the newsletter, Beacon This Week, and on social media. Will highlight how active and vibrant Beacon is.

- Notices re upcoming activities within Beacon
- Making the invisible visible: services that are offered to attendees on an as available basis, eg. valet service, buddy system for rides to church
- A 'Join Us' area to show impromptu activities and events.
- A 'Join Me' area to show community activities where Beacon members participate and newcomers are welcome. This could also include upcoming dates for community events, eg community choir, concerts, music recitals, concert bands, plays, etc.
- Invitation to be on emailing list for monthly newsletter and weekly Beacon This Week.
- Drop-in activity notices like after service impromptu lunch, weekday walking group, after church Pub lunch, and other drop-in activities.
- Announcement and notices of church planned and scheduled events, eg. lunch bunch, book club, movie night, etc.
- Information on how to connect with Friendship Phone Circle.

Priority 1 Items

Timeline, Markers of Success, Financial Requirements and Volunteer Needs:

March to June 2024

- Locate display boards (flip charts, white boards, or other)
- Plan for storage of display boards
- Approx. cost \$250.00
- Host two circle dinners and Luncheons to assess interest for September 2024.
- Survey congregation for interest in friendship phone circle

Priority 2 Items

Timeline, Markers of Success, Financial Requirements and Volunteer Needs

September 2024 to June 2025

- Have a planning groups and process established for Circle Dinners and Luncheons

- Page 4

Website, Newsletter, Beacon This Week and OOS

- Update newsletter and website. Remove out dated info, photos and stories. Replace with current photos and information.
- Add a Beacon News column - Highlight short write up on Beacon's history (Coq. Food bank, panels on housing, water issues, and poverty) and bio on past or current attendees. Have info about UU principles in printout format.
- Provide clear information on where to find parking in all communications.
- Provide information on nearby transit routes.
- Advertise services and activities in existing churches and groups aligned with Beacon's values.
- Have take home RE packets for parents and grandparents who show up.
- Expand newsletter to include creative submissions from the congregation.

Priority 1 Items

Timeline, Markers of Success, Financial Requirements and Volunteer Needs:

March to June 2024

- Explore possibility of sharing information with 4 other area Unitarian churches.
- Express appreciation to the many unsung heroes for their past and current volunteer efforts.

Priority 2 Items

Timeline, Markers of Success, Financial Requirements and Volunteer Needs

- Explore RE take home packets
- Establish an archivist

In-person and zoom connections

- Continue in person and zoom for Sunday services.
- Waving 'hello' is fun. Continue to encourage in-person attendees to view others attending on zoom.
- Explore how in-person and zoom attended might interact in real time.

Priority 1 Items

Timeline, Markers of Success, Financial Requirements and Volunteer Needs:

- Explore possibility of connecting those attending on zoom with those enjoying coffee real time

Priority 2 Items

Timeline, Markers of Success, Financial Requirements and Volunteer Needs

- Pilot groups using the small meeting room prior and after church. Determine popular meeting times, deadline for exiting, etc.

Coffee hour

- Coffee and tea to be served upstairs 10 am to 10:30 and 11:30 to noon, or as determined by those prepping coffee.
- Model coffee hour etiquette (open circles, available seat at a table, face those arriving)
- Introduce a 'tea' of the week
- Any food to be shared must arrive ready to serve as there likely will be minimum or no storage.
- Explore the possibility of a fundraising idea: Beacon branded mugs with lids
- A laptop positioned in the kitchen would allow volunteers to 'attend' the service and be less isolated, for example, soup luncheon days.

Priority 1 Items

Timeline, Markers of Success, Financial Requirements and Volunteer Needs:

March to June 2024

- Determine volumes of coffee and tea to be made, resolve storage and cups issue. If needed purchase up to a 80C percolator and a plug in kettle. Approx. costs of \$80.00 and \$35.00.
- Instruct the congregation how treat must be provided with the lack of a kitchen.
- Model coffee hour etiquette (open circles, available seat at a table, face those arriving)
- Introduce a 'tea' of the week

Priority 2 Items

Timeline, Markers of Success, Financial Requirements and Volunteer Needs

- Strike a committee to explore fundraising mugs with lids

Use of Sapperton Hall

-Rent upper hall for 4 hours each service Sunday. Rent lower hall as needed, eg. soup luncheon days.

- Use of small upstairs meeting room for discussion groups, clubs, task groups would have a daylight meeting place for an hour before and an hour after each service. The meeting room would remain available for use as required during services too. Possible uses include: Enviro Bee, clubs, meditation group, discussion groups, social justice interest group, Chalice group, planning groups, etc.

-This increased activity on Sunday mornings will build community, foster friendships and facilitate volunteering.

- Explore the possibility of putting these groups on zoom

Priority 1 Items

Timeline, Markers of Success, Financial Requirements and Volunteer Needs:

March to June 2024

- Enter discussion with Sapperton Hall board re possibility of changing our rental agreement. Costing included in 50+ Action Plan.
- Explore idea with congregation re making use of the small meeting room.
- Explore level of interest and possible topics that would be popular.

If there is interest, explore possible uses of the room, possible leaders, and possible use of zoom during these meetings. Approx. cost laptop computer.

Priority 2 Items

Timeline, Markers of Success, Financial Requirements and Volunteer Needs

June to September 2024

- Use the summer months to plan 2 or 3 uses for the small meeting room to begin in September 2024.

Interactions with our larger community

- Updating and expanding distribution of our website and BTW. Ensure that our social media presence connects widely in our region and promotes an awareness of Beacon and our activities.

- Look for ways to partner with other senior based groups. Contact senior services groups, eg. Century House, Share, Sapperton Pensioners, to see if a partnership is possible, to provide an outlet for spreading information on our services and offerings.

- Plan a monthly Bring A Friend service.

-Modelling how to invite a friend, how to start a chat with someone new to you, etc.

- Social Media presence:

- A short-term hire to expand the content in our public facing social media. Funds may be available.
- A short-term hire to expand the contact list of groups to receive our information. To include senior centers, and service group and activity groups. Funds may be available.

- Arrange for a guest speaker. Invite the community to a speaker(s) on an issue(s) important to the community. Advertise to community and explore possible partnerships with like minded groups and churches.

- Explore Metro Vancouver Alliance or similar groups that attract others aligned with our values.

- Apply for Sharing Our Faith grant.

- Explore uses of the Post Office to deliver fliers to specific postal codes.

Priority 1 Items

Timeline, Markers of Success, Financial Requirements and Volunteer Needs:

- Board to explore possible joint activities with other area congregations, or groups with values and activities which align with Beacon's.

Priority 2 Items

Timeline, Markers of Success, Financial Requirements and Volunteer Needs

- Plan a Bring a Friend service.
- Explore possible guest speaker evening.

Welcoming newcomers

- Make use of Newcomer Host and Impromptu Greeters
- Make our upcoming activities easy to see. Weekly use of a Beacon Community Bulletin Board to highlight how active and vibrant Beacon is.
- Newcomers are intentionally invited to join Friendship Phone Circle.
- Newsletter articles - What has Beacon done in the past? Who has come to Beacon? Highlight Beacon's history in the community, eg. Coq. Food bank, panels on housing, Good News Band, water issues, poverty, and who has attended over the years? Volunteer to interview original members - highlight outstanding members. Photo history Jane S.
- Assistance to find seating and be seated.
- Visitor packets to be available. Does CUC have any preprinted material
- Use of computer or large screen to show pictures of Beacon's activities before and after worship services. Explore possibility of connecting in real time zoom and in-person attendees.
- Introduce nametags.

Priority 1 Items

Timeline, Markers of Success, Financial Requirements and Volunteer Needs:
March 2024 to June 2024

- Advertise services and activities in existing churches and groups aligned with Beacon's values.
- Schedule Getting to Know You and follow up sessions frequently.
- Explore congregation interest in a friendship phoning group.
- Explore availability of printed materials .

Priority 2 Items

Timeline, Markers of Success, Financial Requirements and Volunteer Needs
September 2024

- Reintroduce nametags.

Retaining Newcomers and Being a Community for All Emphasis should be placed on retaining members as well as newcomers.

- Ensure newcomers become known and are included in conversations when seated or standing.
- Offer Getting to Know UU sessions and follow up session frequently.
- Offer interesting Sunday am activities and discussions in our small room.
- Speaker series: arrange for speaker(s) on topics of interest across the community
- Newcomers could be invited to partner with a member in a Sunday morning task.
- All Sunday morning tasks should have partners. Perhaps tasks can be accepted for a month rather than individual days to allow for competency and friendships to develop.
- Approach other churches and senior groups to explore how they retain members
- Plan a Friendship Sunday
- Develop our social media presence to share information to all attending and beyond
- Solicit feedback from congregation re recent changes and support for possible pending changes. Include in annual survey.

Priority 1 Items

Timeline, Markers of Success, Financial Requirements and Volunteer Needs:

March to June 2014

- Present to the congregation a summary of all changes to be introduced. Explain reason and how the changes will impact the congregants.

Priority 2 Items

Timeline, Markers of Success, Financial Requirements and Volunteer Needs

June -Sept 2024

- Develop a plan to improve our social media presence.

2024 Church year

Explore possible speaker series. Explore possible partnership in presenting a speaker or a speaker series.