

Comments Received on Landing Place Team Feedback Forms

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Summary and the Path Forward

The Landing Place Team has been working since last June to help the members of CCC find our next physical home—one that reflects our shared values, priorities, and purpose. Over the intervening time, the team has conducted research to inform the congregation's long-term decision about where and how we gather, worship, serve, and grow. That research has involved exploring all of the choices that CCC could make regarding its future home—along with periodically briefing the congregation about its findings and soliciting feedback on the information the team has presented. Most recently, members of the Landing Place Team provided a presentation to the congregation about the representative options that the team had looked into, and asked members of CCC for feedback on those options.

We received 43 responses, and some of these responses may reflect more than one individual in a family. Thank you all for responding!

The congregation strongly supported the co-locating option. Our initial research revealed that finding a co-locating partner will require time and patience, however. Future efforts will focus on identifying possible partners and developing relationships between us.

The option of leasing a space in downtown Silver Spring also had a high level of support, although some congregation members expressed concerns regarding parking and safety. We will continue to look for attractive properties in this category.

The congregation had strong feelings on buying a church property, with some advocating enthusiastically for this option and others equally opposed. There were few rankings of this option in the middle! We encourage you to read the written comments on this option to understand the perspectives for and against buying a church. We will continue to look for churches for sale, with a priority for those that are within Silver Spring.

The remaining options had a lower level of support. The congregation rated the option of leasing space outside The Beltway in the middle, without many strong feelings for or against the option. We would proceed with this option only if we found space that is both especially attractive and not too far beyond the Beltway.

The options for renovating a property or building a new church received lower ratings, with concerns expressed on the initial cost, development time, and maintenance cost and effort. The Landing Place Team will not give high priority to these options.

The options that we presented are not exclusive of one another. For example, co-locating could occur in either leased or owned property. Additionally, we can imagine that our future church location could also evolve over the next few years. We could possibly rent for 5-10 years, and then find a co-locating arrangement or buy a property that is a good fit.

Below, we have included a numerical and graphical summary of the ratings. We have also included all the written comments received. Many took the time to write down their thoughts, and we encourage you to read the written comments to understand the perspective of your fellow church members on our location options and the overall direction of the church.

As part of this ongoing discernment, the Landing Place Team will create tables to help us rank and evaluate properties, based on criteria that have come up in the past communications with the congregation. We will be actively looking for specific co-locating opportunities and available properties that match the congregation's wishes, and we will continue to update the congregation. For this process, or to follow up on anything in this report, feel free to send comments to deanr@ccsilverspring.org.

Summary of Responses

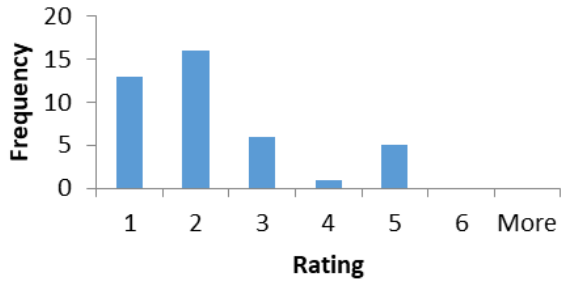
Table summarizing rankings and question responses.

	Average rank	% Favorable (≤ 2)	% Unfavorable (≥ 4)	% Memorable	% Exciting
Co-locate	2.2	71%	15%	83%	54%
Lease downtown	2.7	51%	32%	69%	44%
Lease outside					
Beltway	3.4	24%	41%	61%	26%
Renovate	3.5	21%	55%	60%	20%
Buy	3.0	41%	46%	78%	50%
Build	4.9	13%	85%	61%	12%
Ave. response count	41			34.5	34.5

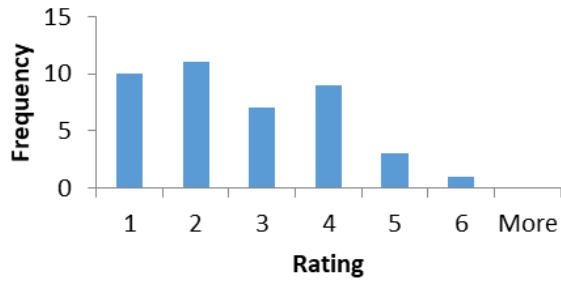
Differences in ranking less than 0.6 are not statistically significant. We received 43 responses (two responses included only additional comments and no rankings).

Histograms of Rankings (1 = most desirable) Received.

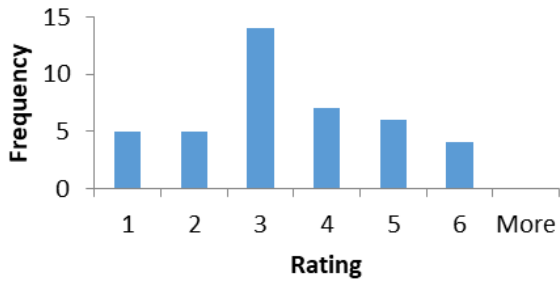
Co-Locate



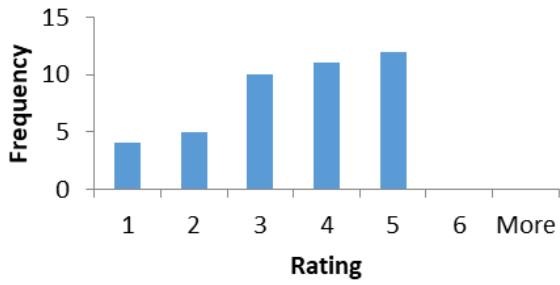
Lease Downtown



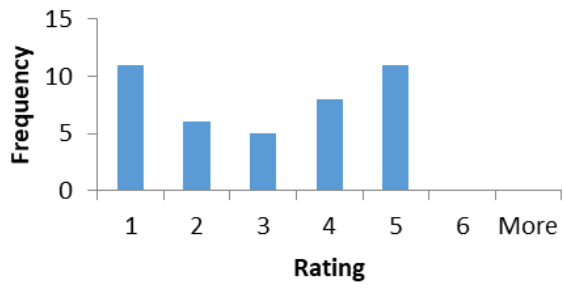
Lease Outside Beltway



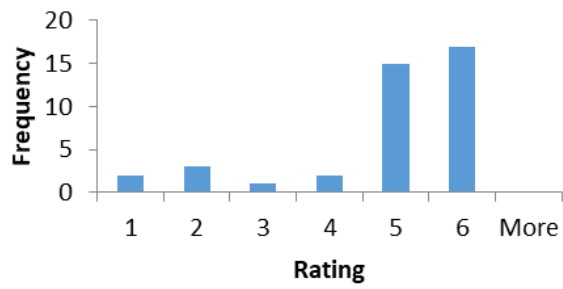
Renovate



Buy



Build



Comments on Co-Locating Option

1. Sharing space can be/is a hassle. Not my preference.
2. I like being at SSUMC—Need office space, meeting space closer to worship space. Need to make setup & put away easier (hire or rotate teams).
3. I'm excited about the potential to continue to partner with SSUMC and feel it's in our best interest to choose the most flexible and economical option. Given the aging of the congregation, I think we need to be prepared for a continual decline in membership. Young people aren't joining churches anymore.
4. I'm not sure how we would make this feel like CCC.
5. Opportunities to share ministries.
6. Depends on our access to space, offices, design for worship, time of day to worship, parking.
7. Nothing about this is appealing to me.
8. Co-locate with another church.
9. I have experienced the positive impact of a merger; it adds excitement & youth, which CCC needs?
10. We have been able to work here as we are able.
11. I miss being in a beautiful, above ground sanctuary. Would like to be in a "church" space for worship again.

4:00 on Sundays? Pot luck dinner after? Can we do this at SSUMC?
12. Co-locating offer best opportunity to continue doing what we do now, while potentially offering new mission / service opportunities and relationship building. However, the current arrangement with SSUMC will become totally untenable once construction begins. Super disruptive, and SSUMC will have too much on their hands to fulfill their obligations to CCC.
13. I like this in concept, but it seems to be proving difficult or impossible.
14. The successful examples Maureen and Anne described are encouraging, but we would still be dependent on any organization(s) with which we co-locate. I prefer we seek independence to the extent possible and feasible.

15. The arrangement we have now works pretty well except for SS space. However, not having control over the space and having to set up each Sunday is a chore.
16. Co-locating with SSUMC has been a great interim location, but it feels like we are guests w/ very gracious hosts--just not really our space.
17. This option saves us the most money, but an "independent" space is preferred.
18. This sounds reasonable, but I am concerned about the "match." While expedient, I am quite concerned about staying at the SSUMC space. Not only is Sunday set up getting old and burdensome to CCC, I wonder about changes once SSUMC begins its construction. As I understand it, the construction will directly impact CCC offices. I also suspect that construction will consume SSUMC parking, thereby changing parking patterns.
19. Could be great or it could be a hot mess. It depends how much autonomy we have and how well we work with the other church or organization.
20. CCC's foray into our co-location at UMC gives a picture into possibilities for other places of worship and with organizations known for supporting what we value.
21. Presents us with "built in" opportunities for growth and fellowship while sharing volunteer and financial responsibilities.
22. I would love for us to co-locate with one or more other worship entities /nonprofits in downtown Silver Spring.
23. This doesn't seem viable, given current spaces and evaluations to date; however, SSUMC development may be viable, depending on CCC office location. suitable conference room and classrooms, adequate reserved parking for mobility-limited attendees.
24. Strong co-locating possibilities certainly exist with 7th Day Adventist and Jewish congregations (Piigrim Church has positive experience with Adventists groups).
25. We formerly worshiped in an Interfaith Center in Columbia--a great experience & one we thoroughly endorse. Great opportunity if we can find such a space, but least one other partner. Note on co-locating with SSUMC--not a good long-term option. We need meeting spaces, a climate-controlled space for our music library, & a room for choir practice.
26. We formerly worshiped for years in a UCC church located in a shared space in an interfaith center in Columbia, MD. It worked very well and provided interfaith experiences.

27. We need to combine with a younger church because we are aging so quickly--we will die out. I can't imagine wanting to join CCC as a family with young children. Let's stay where we are AND make a long-term plan to merge with SSUMC--we're already sharing a youth pastor & space. They are younger and have a lovely sanctuary space, and a solid choir, plus all their outreach work. Surely we can figure out how to mesh Methodists with UCC.
28. Many dependencies here. Could work, but not excited about not having our own space & flexibility of program use/schedule, etc. Could work, but dependent on many factors—days of use, program use, can we have a space set-up? Storage? Flexibility for schedule?

Comments on Leasing Downtown

1. We need a very flexible and customizable space that is affordable for CCC. This is it.
2. I would rather have us invest so we have an asset.
3. Be in a central location, deepen our mission work.
4. Gives us ability to design set up as we want, have space designed for our needs. Parking, security, & safety issue.
5. A 5 year lease will allow CCC to build membership looking to build a physical structure.
6. Concerns about parking.
7. My current thinking is we prioritize Co-locate and Lease, and put all other options on the backburner. But be willing to wait up to a year for the right opportunity. Class A space in downtown core -- just doesn't offer the right visibility for us. Wait for a Class C building in more of a neighborhood setting, and be prepared to invest in our own build-out. Hopefully a stable enough landlord.
8. The leased close-in space looked promising! But the one presented (above Whole Foods) is not available to us. Did they not want a church? Do we qualify for a commercial space?
9. When you are the tenant, you are beholden to, and subject to the whims of, the landlord. Those facilities that said they are not interested in renting are smart! I'm not in favor of CCC's losing its independence and not being able to be the church we want to be 7 days a week.

10. For older people, this is a hassle. Would enough younger people commute to downtown? Part of coming into worship for me is walking through some attractive grounds. CCC was very involved in downtown ministries when we were at our old building.
11. I don't think we are really an inner city church. I don't know if we would feel a sense of community on Sunday mornings in a commercial area.
12. As long as there's good parking.
13. Parking / access would probably be a huge issue.
14. Probably not. Given the congregation's age and our clear preference for convenient free parking a "city" location seems unlikely.
15. Downtown Silver Spring comes with too many issues, chief among these being parking. If we do not have and control of our own parking lot with lots of spaces, then I want nothing to do with this. Imagine for a moment instrumentalists having to haul timpani or amplifiers and other instruments down the block to get to the church. Or choir members having to pay to park for every rehearsal. Not acceptable. Safety is also a real problem in downtown SS.
16. Downtown traffic, parking as well as security and safety are concerns for me. Opportunities for outreach to create a welcoming space abound.
17. Done cost effectively, this could allow us to endow our housing budget from 9525 sales proceeds while minimizing the effect on the operational budget.
18. I love the idea of leasing space downtown, ideally with room for other entities to gather ...we simply do not have a need for a space that is only ours seven days a week.
19. I think this may offer viable options, depending on location, lease rates, accessibility, costs of customizing worship space (acoustics, worship in the round, et al.)
20. Parking is my main negative issue with downtown Silver Spring.
21. Very inconvenient for us, also for visitors.
22. Too inconvenient for current members and visitors.
23. If it's the right fit.
24. This will be our own space. We can interact with the community, no maintenance costs.

Comments on Leasing Outside the Beltway

1. Not in CCC "territory".
2. I would change churches rather than go outside the Beltway or to PG County.
3. Too far, not many options.
4. How far outside The Beltway? What is the cost, how much to build out for our needs? Does it meet needs for locations, space, parking?
5. Depending on how far out: White Oak, Beltsville is ok.
6. Concerns my fellow church members will find it far.
7. Too far away. [The example is] Not a pretty church space.
8. I'm fine with this and any other lease option, as long as the location seems appealing in that we can chart out the specifics in terms of visibility and connection to a stable residential neighborhood.
9. This might work, but the building that John gave as a possibility is too large and too expensive (to buy, to renovate, to maintain). And personally, I prefer the hustle bustle of SS over a neighborhood of houses.
10. Not a big fan of going outside the Beltway to a place like Cloverly. See comments on the next page about the nature of church building as "home." If the building is so far out it's just a place we drive to for worship, that's a non-starter for me.
11. Cheaper for sure--mission and ministry can be done anywhere today downtown or new start.
12. Our history is in Silver Spring, and there is much we can do. This is too far away. There may be neighborhoods--but it would be reinventing ourselves to be outside the Beltway.
13. Not too far out.
14. Might be too far away; would want it closer in.
15. Perhaps, if parking is easy.
16. Probably my first choice. Parking should not be an issue and rental costs are probably less than in downtown Silver Spring.

17. The potential cost savings and identification of a space that can be adapted for our desired purposes is attractive; use of public transportation can continue to be considered.
18. Same as option to lease space, downtown, assuming the location is near families from which new members may develop and as long as existing members aren't liable to leave due to distance to the new location.
19. Not interested.
20. This is the least desirable option for me.
21. Could work very well.
22. Not concerned with being in Silver Spring. Could work, but we don't have to be in Silver Spring. We can interact and support a new community. But we need to consider where other UCC churches are and not be too close to them.

Comments on Renovating a Building

1. This seems like the best option.
2. Less time focused on outreach & mission.
3. Only if the price was right, the cost of renovating & time was not too much or long, & the property met our needs for space, location, parking.
4. I like the feeling of a permanent home that we can use, modify, rent out, make our own.
5. I don't want to buy another money pit. Lease if it is desirable. A 5 year lease will allow CCC to build membership looking to build a physical structure.
6. If it isn't near another UCC church.
7. Seems like too big of a lift for us at this point. Even if there was a way to raise a portion of the up-front cost, the time and the overall development risk are a significant hurdle.
8. Depends on where... Our 9525 church was barely inside the Beltway so seemed reasonably close-in to SS. I prefer not locating way outside, such as up Rockville Pike for example.
9. Location could be a good option to combine worship and an exciting, interesting mission—assuming we can decide what that would be.

10. Depends on where it is and how much work is needed. Do you mean a non-church property?
11. The specific example given of a renovated building in Shepherd Park has great potential and is very exciting--lots of office and meeting space--rent to a sympathetic organization, room to expand or contract--energy for local projects--close to downtown w/o being in a fully commercial location.
12. I think the cost is just too high.
13. I like this option, but am concerned about the cost.
14. Perhaps, but the example given in the presentation was much more expensive than I can support. Even if CCC can financially support this (or a similar) project, is this REALLY what CCC is called to do with its resources?
15. Renovate a rental property or a property we are purchasing? I do not want to spend much money renovating a space unless we own it. And even then I don't want to spend much money. The example given at the LPT presentation was in the millions of dollars. No way is that acceptable!
16. Dependent so much on the property and the extent of renovation needed to make the space welcoming and accessible.
17. Do not have the interest in this right now. Feeling extreme fatigue about owning a building. We do not have the volunteers for this effort.
18. Some possibility but location, cost considerations may outweigh much of the benefits (CCC controlling the space, more permanent setup for worship, office and choir rehearsal space).
19. Renovating rather than building makes more sense to me because of less time and energy required to get us "in" and moving.
20. Too expensive & would take too long; we should not consider any option that costs more than our endowment with some money left over.
21. Too expensive--we should not consider any option that exceeds more than 75% of our endowment money. Takes too long.
22. Too much effort.

23. For a good price, the property might not be in good shape. But too many possibilities to really say. So many contingencies. Could work, not opposed, lots of uncertainty. Location, cost, type of space, parking, safety, accessibility, ...cost ...

Comments on Buying a Church

1. We can't afford to get into the same money pit we just got out of.
2. Could be just outside the Beltway, but not too far.
3. A more manageable size for us & in a good, central location.
4. Only if the space was in good shape & met all our needs for space, location, parking and the price was right.
5. Quickest path to resettlement with a chance to rebuild membership, especially if in a place with folks that would fit with us and vice versa.
6. I like the feeling of permanent home that we can use, modify, rent out, make our own.
7. A 5 year lease will allow CCC to build membership looking to build a physical structure.
8. I would like to own again.
9. If it isn't near another UCC church.
10. A church that was close enough to our service area would be too expensive or large / old with the expensive capital improvement needs we had at 9525 Colesville.
11. Not excited about this option. I prefer to get away from the idea of an isolated church building. And the one presented did not appeal to me, though the price seems doable.
12. Assuming the existing building has what we say we need/want (accessibility, adequate parking, location that supports our mission and a growing congregation) and doesn't cost a fortune to renovate, this is better than moving out to the country!
13. Must be a good option. The church we saw on Sunday [i.e., during the presentation] looked like one nice space & layout; affordable and seems to meet most needs. My GPS tells me it is 4.7 miles for the church on Montgomery Rd. to Greenbelt UCC. How close is too close?
14. The location is critical--not too far out, still in Silver Spring. An existing church would define the size of our congregation. Less flexible than some other options.

15. Again, concerned about the cost; we need a nest egg to remain financially stable.
16. Perhaps. See my comment below.....I am opposed to CCC's owning and maintaining property without equal resources being applied to doing good in the world.
17. If it is a small church that meets our needs and that has ample parking, then this is an acceptable option, providing that we do not spend more than 2.5 million dollars or so on the building and renovations. This option is tied with leasing space outside the beltway as my #1 choice.
18. Based on the research that was presented, this may be out of our reach. The cost of purchase along with the renovation in a location that feels central to "Silver Spring" appears to outstrip what we may have available. In addition, the ongoing cost of upkeep and attention to the structure's needs likely would challenge this congregation (current and potential new members).
19. Do not have the interest in this right now. Feeling extreme fatigue about owning a building. We do not have the volunteers for this effort.
20. This seems one of the most costly options but depending on building/mechanical systems ages and location, I consider this a maybe.
21. Our top choice if the right church becomes available in a good location.
22. If the right church becomes available, this is the best option.
23. If it can easily fit worship in the round.
24. Why do we want to own another building?
25. Sure, this would be an ok option, but lots of work and probably high maintenance costs over time. Not really excited about owning; not like personal real-estate, not sure this is an "investment" and comes with major expenses for maintenance/upkeep/repair.

Comments on Building a Church

1. Too much money and time sunk in a building that we can't afford.
2. Location & cost will be important.
3. I'd rather use an existing space than build from the ground up.
4. Seems like a long process & takes away from our mission work & focus.

5. We need to focus on growing.
6. Too much money; takes too long.
7. I like the feeling of permanent home that we can use, modify, rent out, make our own.
8. Most desirable after a short-term (5 year) lease and membership growth. Must be built with future growth in mind (i.e., more than 2 classrooms, adequate parking, etc.).
9. A mistake!
10. I think it would be complicated.
11. There is no need to build a new church--there are so many in the world.
12. I'm not confident that we have the necessary resources (\$) to pursue this. But if there's a great opportunity out there, I'd be open to hearing more.
13. Expensive (especially having to purchase land, hire an architect, hire a contractor, deal with subcontractors, etc.—been there, done that!); depends on the location. One advantage is we get what we want (assuming it doesn't take us a decade to decide what that is).
14. Too expensive, takes too long to build, too much investment in building not mission.
15. The best "deals" are farther out than I would want to go.
16. Too expensive.
17. Just way too expensive, sadly.
18. NO!!!
19. If CCC chooses to build a church I will leave CCC. There is no way that God is calling us to spend that kind of time and money on a new structure. We should use a lot of the money from the church sale to help others in our community and for mission work, local and international.
20. Not interested when potential lease space may be available.
21. Do not have the interest in this right now. Feeling extreme fatigue about owning a building. We do not have the volunteers for this effort.
22. Appears to be the most costly option, given current economic conditions, available space locations, cost of acquisition/construction, etc.

23. Personal experience with a build project at Pilgrim recalls significant pride in the finished space but a tremendous number of details needing to be addressed—not something I'd see as beneficial for the energy level at CCC presently.
24. Same comments as renovating an existing property. Too expensive & would take too long.
25. Would take a lot of effort and likely take a long time.
26. Way too much effort!
27. Would be great to have a new church, but would take too long & cost too much. Where is there land to build on? How much for land alone? Least favorable for me; cost & location of a site to build points to not Silver Spring and not nearby at all. Very long schedule; not clear an "investment" value; we might need a large loan to service along with maintenance.

General Comments

1. I would first like to say that all the options have their advantages. I think that as a congregation we need to consider what is most viable for us at this time. In the past decade we have had a steady decline in membership and pledge revenue. Before we make an investment in anything more permanent, we need to demonstrate (in numbers) that we are a thriving (or at least stable) community. I would also like our space to reflect a modern, forward-thinking congregation so a more traditional church space has the least appeal to me. My preference would be to remain in Silver Spring. To those who have safety concerns, I believe that increased police presence has helped turn that issue around. Mass transit helps make it a hub to draw from other locations and parking continues to be free on Sundays.
2. I am open to any of these ideas. It's hard to rank w/o knowing the associated costs. Buying & building would probably be most expensive & I believe unaffordable right now considering our current membership.
3. For me, how we obtain a more permanent space (lease, buy build) is less important than these factors:
 - 1) Does it make sense given our finances?
 - 2) Is there room available for a flexible worship space, offices, and other needed meeting/storage space?

- 3) Location - in or close to Silver Spring, with inside the beltway being preferable. However, I would avoid downtown SS spaces that required parking in county lots. While these lots are free on Sunday, they are not for weekday gatherings such as choir rehearsal. Also, I would feel less safe walking to and inside a parking garage after dark, e.g. for choir practice.
4. It would be great to join another UCC church ... Pilgrim ... We are not increasing membership, have an aging congregation ... need new life. Ministers of both churches could share leadership. Don't hire anyone like a new Associate Minister now!! We don't have money to do this and it is not the time until we grow. Senior Minister needs to do Outreach and bring in new members—or join another church.
5. Before we settle on the space, I think we should define our mission. Do we want a multi-purpose facility and, if so, how much space do we want/need and for what kind of mission? The building in downtown Silver Spring seems ideal except for timeline and cost. For example, in the first six months of the 30 months projected, we'd better have a good idea of what we want to accomplish with that building before we enter into design development or that phase will take a lot longer than four months! One thing we learned from every architect we interviewed for the project at 9525 was we need to identify an objective. We came up with four, which dismayed them a little, but, thankfully, our architect, Steve Ziger, was willing to work with us on that.

This past week, I've given a lot of thought to a church "home." Our location on Colesville Road meant that people were dropping into the church all the time. When major world/national events occurred, our building drew people to drop in for prayer or solace. While some of the ministries, like an Ash Wednesday breakfast may no longer be viable in terms of opening the building early in the morning, the point is are we just looking for a space in which to worship or a space that is convenient for our parishioners and others to see CCC as a home for all kinds of things that a vibrant church community entails, not just worship on Sundays? I vote for the home for all kinds of activities and ministries, which is why I'm not enthusiastic about any location that is well outside the Beltway. I believe we should be looking to the extent possible at close-in suburb locations that, obviously, are affordable.

Regarding a timeline: when we moved to Marvin during the reconstruction, we joked about going to the wilderness. The difference between then and now is (a) we knew the amount of time we'd be spending there and (b) we knew that, at the end of that time, we'd be going home. Dragging this "exile" out is, in my view, an option inviting loss of members and interest.

Regarding objectives, we had four for our building on Colesville Road. I remember three of them: parking, accessibility, and air-conditioning. The church in Beltsville has all three

without us having to do a thing. We can pay cash for that building. Yes, we will have to put some money into making some changes, but that's a fact for any option facing us. As for "turning left" out of the parking lot, we lived for decades on Colesville Road, where even making a right turn involved taking your life in your hands. No one died. There are possibly some low-cost solutions to dealing with traffic.

Given that we could pay cash for that building and even budgeting an additional \$500,000 for moving, closing costs, and making what improvements we need, we're talking \$3 million, which leaves a sizeable amount remaining from the sale of 9525 and no mortgage. I have to ask myself, "Why are we looking this gift horse in the mouth?" and continuing to talk about it instead of doing something with it?

Regarding being close enough to be "competitive" with Aubra's church, I suspect the two congregations would draw very different demographics. That said, I see opportunities for collaboration, not competition.

Tom Ault mentioned not forgetting the needs of the choir. Very true, but I think we could reduce those needs considerably by weeding the library and by evaluating whether we need robes (especially children's robes!). I suspect not. With Sam's blessing, I'm willing to spend time in Silver Spring this summer working on the music library with other interested choir members. I'm pretty sure we can whittle that down considerably! And we need to keep our two Steinway grands!

6. I have only high praise for the thorough work of the landing team. The thoughtful research of all options and the professional presentation by members of the group are impressive. Each presenter has such positive energy for "their" option, while being clear about the downsides.

Alas my preferred option is the most expensive (more than building new!!)—but has flexibility, space for classrooms & meeting rooms, perhaps space to incubate projects in the community. The rental space could provide synergy with like-minded organizations. Not in the center of town, but just outside in a residential area. However, location, for me, is key. The same type option in Aspen Hill would not appeal to me (for example).

If we were to have shared space (co-locate), I would hope we would be equal partners in ownership of the space. Not guests in someone else's home.

Building a new church would allow us to design what we want. I fear it would cost more than we think, and the design phase would be fraught. How many classrooms? Space for rental to counselors or a nursing school? Basketball to draw in young people? What is the clear vision we would build to—and is there consensus?

7. CCC has an opportunity here to provide substantial financial support to what I understand as God's work in the world. I would much rather see us make grants to (say) Shepherd's Table or MUM or Wider Circle or KRMA/KUSP or something else like that than sink a lot of money into buying or renovating a building.
8. My main concerns:
 - that CCC NOT spend the bulk of money we received from the sale of our former church building to purchase or renovate a new church home.
 - that we look for space outside, or just inside, of the beltway where parking is plentiful and the area is safe
 - if CCC chooses to move to PG County, I will probably leave the church. Our roots are in Silver Spring where most of our members live. To leave Silver Spring would be ridiculous.
9. Special thanks for the Landing Team! Good information and careful consideration to collect feedback.
10. I prefer less expensive options that meet our basic needs (perhaps foregoing some nice-to-haves). It would be a mistake to take on ownership of a building again, as we would face the same issues of too few people and dollars chasing too many problems and challenges. We decided to put those burdens behind us. Then, mindfully avoiding getting into the same pit of constant worry about finances will go a long way toward re-invigorating our mission focus.
11. I am so impressed with the work being done by the Landing Place task force. Thank you for your discernment and for your excellent communication with the congregation.
12. If adequate office (when demolition begins), kitchen, and classroom spaces can be provided by SSUMC, extending the current lease for 1-3 years may be the least costly and allow for increased investment earnings on CCC invested funds.
13. Thank you for your work. You're in my prayers.
14. Before we joined CCC many years ago, we were members of the Oakland Mills Uniting Church, which was triple affiliated with the UCC, Church of the Brethren, and Disciples of Christ. Our church met in the Oakland Mills Meeting House, one of two interfaith centers in Columbia. We shared the Meeting House with a number of other congregations – a Lutheran congregation, two Jewish congregations, a Baptist congregation, and a Catholic congregation. An administrator managed the space and the rent each congregation contributed to the meeting house, which was based on their

needs for space. Each congregation had a representative on the board that oversaw the facility; for several years Jim represented our congregation on that board. This arrangement was a win-win for everyone. Not only did it make financial sense, it led to partnerships among the congregations, ministers who substituted for each other and a real sense of broader faith-based community. There were rooms of various sizes to accommodate worship, Sunday schools, small meetings, choir practice, etc. Rooms were also rented out for weddings or other events when none of the member congregations needed them. Jim can give you more details if you'd like them, but this arrangement absolutely worked for all involved, and we would welcome becoming a part of such a shared facility in the future.

In addition, we think it would be worth exploring actually combining our congregation with another UCC church. This doesn't seem to be an option that has been seriously considered, but it makes sense to us even if we choose to "land" in a multi-congregation facility.

15. Under no circumstances should we consider any option that exceeds more than 75% of our endowment money.