



Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church

Welcoming Improvements Now

WIN Task Force Charge

June 2019

A. Background

It is part of AUUC's vision to welcome everyone to our church and show that we value and support and are able to nurture each individual. At times, our church space and accessibility can limit our intentions. The Social Justice committee, as part of their recent social justice focus on welcoming people with disabilities, asked various committees to participate in making our church more accessible and welcoming. Starting with a draft set of actions (from simple adjustments to major improvements) based on UUA recommendations, the committee sought feedback from other committees through the Program Council. Committees were able to consider things they were already doing as well as ways to make their processes more welcoming and inclusive. In these and subsequent discussions, a number of wish-list items emerged for the building and programmatic use. A systematic process is needed to support and prioritize the ideas of committees and congregational participants and turn improvements for welcoming and inclusion into a reality for the church.

Additional information and resources for help with specific areas can be found in the Guidelines document and Handbook on this UUA web page: <https://www.uua.org/accessibility>

B. Task Force Charge

The Task Force is charged with investigating methods to improve the accessibility and welcoming of our Accotink UU Church to all people, including those with disabilities and differently abled bodies. The Task Force will gather information about options for various potential improvements to the church (e.g., structural, technological, etc.) that would make our building and programs more welcoming and inclusive. The Task Force will provide this information to the AUUC community through various outreach methods (town hall meetings, meetings with committees/groups, written outreach, etc.) and determine their willingness to fund such improvements. Should it be found that the church is ready to fund improvements, the Task Force will oversee fundraising activities and installation of such features as agreed upon between the Task Force and the Board of Directors.

Examples of improvements to be considered include an elevator/lift for accessibility between levels of the building; an upgrade to our audiovisual system that would include improved assistive hearing and live-streaming technology; and replacement chairs for the sanctuary that are comfortable and durable.

The Task Force will be functional until such time as these duties are completed.

C. Task Force Composition

The Task Force will be composed of 4 to 5 congregational members or friends, with complementary backgrounds and interests in inclusiveness, welcoming aesthetics, and/or fundraising. After two years, or when vacancies arise, new members or friends can be appointed to the task force with the approval of the Board of Directors.

D. Task Force Oversight

The Board of Directors (BOD) will provide ongoing oversight of the WIN Task Force. The Task Force will provide status reports to the BOD quarterly. Reporting will include:

- progress during the last 90 days;
- efforts planned for the following 90 days;
- issues resolved;
- open issues.

E. End Products

The products to be developed by the Task Force will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Any written documents used to inform the congregation and summaries of outreach and feedback from congregation.
- For potential improvements with high support, a data and information report to include costs, timelines, and any associated options for BOD to make informed decisions.
- For approved improvements, a fundraising plan and timeline.
- For funded improvements, contracts and other records for selection and installation.

Approved by AUUC BOD: June 5, 2019