

SHARING SPACES:

A Winning Strategy for Cooperative Facilities Use

Manual on Shared Facilities Resources

General Board of Global Ministries

Let's Talk Church

- What is the first thing you think of when you hear the word “church?”
- In light of our individual answers, who or what is the Church?
- What is the ministry/mission of The United Methodist Church?



Let's Talk Church

- Where does the ministry/mission of “the church” take place?
- What is the relationship between “the Church” and the church building?
- How does the church building support the ministry/mission of the church?



Let's Talk Church

- What is the relationship between the ministry/mission of your congregation and the congregation with whom a shared ministry is being considered?
- How could the ministry/mission of the congregation be enriched by sharing the building?



Let's Talk Church

- How could the use of two languages enhance the ministry/mission of the Church?
- In what ways can the congregations work together to better serve the community?



The Church is the Body of Christ



Paul reminds us that Christ is the head and we are parts of the Body, each with different function, all working together as one body, under Christ's Lordship.

(1 Cor. 12:12-30)

Shared Facilities

A shared arrangement is most fulfilling when:

- it begins in the heart of God.
- It comes as a call or **vision** to God's people.
- When parties who seek to enter this shared arrangement spend time seeking God together to develop a common understanding of God's vision and their mission.
- **Vision and commitment are required.**
- Almost everything else is flexible and open ended.

Shared Facilities



Be clear about purpose, lines of authority, and responsibilities in any relationship that is developed. **Intentional planning** will result in successful experiences of sharing facilities.

Shared Facilities



Mission and ministry are foremost. Sharing a facility as a means of balancing a budget or providing additional income is *shortsighted* and will lead, ultimately, to *dissatisfaction*.

Shared Facilities



The motivation is the determination of **the best way the Gospel can be expressed** in a community.

Nesting a Mission Congregation



- A church accepts the development of a new, emerging church as its mission in its facility.
- The new church “**ne**sts” within the existing church and is provided a home and support while it develops.

Nesting a Mission Congregation



- The church's mission is to nurture **self sufficiency** (or self sustaining).
- This means that either the present congregation or the denomination or both will subsidize this growing church while realizing little or no income from it.

Nesting a Mission Congregation



- It is mandatory that all agree that the growth and programs of this fledging should have priority of resources, time and space.

Nesting a Mission Congregation



- For churches in decline, this is an **opportunity to participate in a meaningful *transition*.**

Nesting a Mission Congregation

Characteristics:

- Share all facilities
- Joint organization such as a Joint Council (governing body)
- Separate leadership
- Differing organizational patterns- the established church may follow denominational guidelines while the emerging church will likely be more fluid, organizing in a way most appropriate to its mission.

Nesting a Mission Congregation

Characteristics:

- Separate budgets
- The mission church should contribute to the building operating expenses if possible, even though they receive a subsidy or other support.
- Common master calendar- This may mean all activities are approved by the primary decision-making board.
- Decisions regarding room use, time, and priorities are made jointly either by a committee or between the pastoral leaders.

Nesting a Mission Congregation

Benefits:

- Close contact with people of another background and opportunity to develop relationships and understanding which people might not do on their own.



Nesting a Mission Congregation

Benefits:

- Serve and extend the reign of God in the discovery of a new missional purpose for the church
- Opportunity for a mission to serve and grow without the worries and fears of property and facility ownership and upkeep.



Language and Culture



Decisions regarding the language of meetings and the need for translation and communication in multiple languages should be addressed when more than one language is used in the joint relationship. **Most often problems arise because of poor communication and understanding.**

Language and Culture



If different cultures and traditions are involved, this is also the time to discuss **varying patterns of worship and community life.**

Language and Culture



The areas which have proven to be the most disruptive are:

- church leadership patterns
- food preparation and kitchen clean up
- and child supervision and discipline

Conflict

Scheduling and cultural issues have been the cause of much frustration in a shared relationship.

Decisions concerning the process for handling conflict; to whom it will be referred and how it will be resolved are critical.



Conflict

Most conflict is the result of poor communication and assumptions about unspoken values and expectations.



Conflict

Having a **relationship-building component** in place and a **means of increasing understanding** is mandatory. *This could be handled by a strong, trusting relationship among staff members or by a Joint Council and by ongoing review of the vision.*



Shared Facilities Chart of Steps

Step 1

- Forming the Joint Committee

Step 2

- Vision

Step 3

- Developing the Proposal

Step 4

- Writing the Covenant

Step 1: Forming the Committee

- Purpose
- As members arrive, have them put on a name tag
- Begin with Prayer, singing and Bible Study



Step 1: Forming the Committee

- Review perceptions, feelings, and input from meeting with members of both congregations
- Review tasks to be completed and time line
- It is important to learn



Step 2 Vision



- Write as clearly as possible the vision for sharing a facility. In one or two sentences, describe what is expected to be accomplished.
- The church leadership shall be kept informed throughout the process.

Step 2 Vision



- Anticipate resistance to this process especially if this is the first time.
- Take time during this process to answer questions, clarify issues, and identify potential problems.
- Build consensus

Step 3: Developing the Proposal

Proposal should include:

- Preamble-rationale for establishing a shared facilities relationship.
- Program Inventory and needs
- Allocating space and time



Step 3: Developing the Proposal

Proposal should include:

- Finances
- Organization
- Evaluation
- Building Related issues
- Staffing concerns



Step 4: Writing the Covenant

- Review and perfect the covenant for shared ministry presented to the joint writing team.
- Plan a process to present this covenant to both Administrative board and both congregations



Step 4: Writing the Covenant

- Clarify who will be responsible for making presentations to the boards, who will attend.
- Plan a worship celebration bring the two congregations together in a bilingual service to begin relationship as a part of the Body of Christ.



Other Models for Sharing Spaces

Shared Building - Separate Organizations

- Individual identity
- Differing: Purposes, Organization, Leadership
- No plan to merge
- Can be complicated
- Organization would include; **but not limited to:**
 - Board of Trustees, Building Use Committee, Joint Building Budget, and a Liaison Committee.

Other Models for Sharing Spaces

Shared Services

- Determination of services to be shared (e.g. office, secretarial and telephone services)
- Allocation of time and space
- Determination of financial responsibility
- Access to property and equipment

Other Models for Sharing Spaces

Shared Membership - Separate Organizations

- Characteristics:
- Bilingual worship services once or twice a year
- Joint Outreach program, VBS, Summer Programs
- Joint charge conference
- All members are “**owners**” of the building and hence there is no tenant/ landlord relationship

Other Models for Sharing Spaces

Shared Ownership - Separate Congregation

- Each congregation contributes to the budget of the corporation for all costs related to the property
- The contribution of each congregation is determined by the extent of their use of the building and is negotiated annually

Other Models for Sharing Spaces

Shared Ownership - Separate Congregation

- A member of each congregation is appointed as a liaison with the custodian and with the other congregation. (avoid putting pastor in the middle)

Sharing Spaces

Questions?