

An Ecumenical Consortium for the Preservation of Tacoma's Sacred Places

11/27/07

- **Draft Goals & Strategies: for review & revision**
- **Resources for maintaining, rehabilitating and funding the restoration of Sacred Places**
- **Partners for Sacred Places New Dollars/New Partners program**
- **Articles from Historic Denver:**
 - The First Step in Restoring your Historic Place of Worship**
 - The Ten Commandments of Historic Renovation**
- **Participant's Contact Info**

Historic Tacoma

PO Box 7664

Tacoma, WA 98417

www.historictacoma.net

Contact Sharon Winters swinters@nventure.com 253.761.9349

An Ecumenical Consortium for the Preservation of Tacoma's Sacred Spaces

Goals & Strategies

3rd draft 11/12/07sw

Participating congregations & organizations (attended at least 2 meetings)

1 st Congregational Church	1 st Church of Christ, Scientist
Christ Episcopal Church	Urban Grace
1 st Lutheran Church	1 st Presbyterian
Immanuel Presbyterian	Center for Spiritual Living
St. Paul's Lutheran	Historic Tacoma

Goal: Congregation members value their historic churches as assets rather than liabilities, acknowledging their value to the church's mission and to the larger community.

Possible Strategies:

- Educate and increase awareness among congregation members about history of the structure and the people who passed through its halls.
Fall 2007 3-part lecture/discussion series: Tacoma's Historic Churches, Historic Building Stewardship, Religious Iconography of Tacoma's Churches
- Help congregations build the case for preservation.

Goal: The larger community supports the preservation of historic churches, acknowledging their contribution to Tacoma's built environment and the urban congregation's contribution to the public good.

Possible Strategies:

- Develop an inventory of historic Tacoma churches using the Tacoma Public Library Building Index, records and building inventories accessible through the city's Historic Preservation Office, etc.
List of pre-1958 sacred spaces completed summer 2007
- Host events open to the public such as an annual historic church tour, joint programming (e.g. organ recitals), open house/community festival to get the community into the buildings and increase awareness about community programming offered by each church.
Opportunity for partnership among churches, LPC & Historic Tacoma; fall 2007 lecture/discussion series publicized and open to public
- Host website (or pages on Historic Tacoma site): a "one-stop shop" for info on bldg. history, work of the congregation, etc. See "church tour" example at <http://historicdenver.org/sacredlandmarks/churchtour.asp>
- Joint marketing of services and programs.
- Interpretive kiosk & self-guided walking map of Wright Park/Hilltop churches

Goal: Individual and collaborative efforts increase church revenues to sustain building maintenance and finance capital projects.

Possible Strategies:

- Explore methods and grant-funding to make early 20th c. structures more marketable to potential lessees (e.g. ADA access).
- Explore joint marketing of facilities, programs and services.
- Expand short and long term lease of facilities not used by congregation.

- Community fund-raising event, e.g. from Historic Denver: Annual Angels in the Architecture Concert & Silent Auction
In January 2008 this event will be held in the “stunning” St. John’s Cathedral. Classical music performers include two chorales and an organist. Tickets are \$20 for Historic Denver members and \$25 for non-members.

Goal: The physical presence of historic churches in Tacoma neighborhoods is preserved and strengthened. Stewards of historic churches are better equipped to maintain their facilities, preserve them for future generations, and sustain financing.

Strategies:

- Establish steering committee with representatives from each church including congregation members with professional expertise.
- Establish communication mechanisms to share information between congregations which are stewards of historic churches. Rotate location of meetings and workshops and include brief presentations by host congregations about how they are tackling stewardship issues.
33-member email distribution group; monthly meetings since Feb. 2007 rotated among churches include brief tours/presentations
- Based on inventory work, identify & prioritize sacred spaces that are most significant and/or most threatened for nomination to the Tacoma Register of Historic Places; consider group nominations.
- Provide workshops and forums featuring speakers with expertise in ecclesiastical architecture, historic preservation, technical assessment of historic structures, financing, mounting capital campaigns, etc.
Fall 2007 3-part lecture/discussion series; Partners for Sacred Spaces New Dollars program
- Identify grant funding or other sources for facilities assessments.

