

KUUF Building Story

Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (KUUF) has considered purchasing or building a building since the 1990's. Many volunteers have assisted, debated, researched, and presented ideas and options.

In September 2020 there was a significant donation that really opened up opportunities. Through the next 3 years a former church at 604 Bridge St. in Houghton became available, then not available, then available and KUUF purchased the building in October 2023. Below are the basics of that congregational decision and behind the scenes efforts. This is the KUUF building story.

September 2020:

Upon KUUF congregant Susan Hooker's death, her townhouse home is deeded to KUUF.

December 2020:

KUUF Board of Trustees votes to sell Susan's condo and directs/authorizes the AdHoc Committee (Elen, Paul, Bill Leder, and Cindy Enderby) to do so. The Board created the *Unexpected Opportunities Committee* to find ways for the congregation to think and decide about what to do with this significant financial resource.

June 6, 2021:

Proposal to the Fellowship **approved** at KUUF Annual Meeting 6/6/2021 and previously approved by the Board of Trustees on 9/23/21:

[quoting KUUF Annual Meeting minutes 6/6/2021]

"The Unexpected Opportunities Committee submitted the following Proposal, as a result of surveying interest and searching for ideas from the congregation. They recommend the following allocations:

- \$150,000 (plus \$30K from Building Fund) – for building purchase & remodeling
- \$50,000 for expenses associated with owning a building
- \$100,000 accessible funds and Investment of some funds for future decisions.
- Hiring a fulltime minister (if needed, some funds could be used to augment).

Jenn moved to accept the proposal, Melissa seconded, followed by discussion. This proposal empowers the Board to act on any opportunities and accept any new ideas that come forth. Bill Fink spoke favorably of the framework of the committee's proposal. Frank suggested committee sunset language be included. Miriam amended Jan's motion to indicate that the plan be recommended and not prescriptive. This and motion will approve the proposal for one year and be revisited next year. Voted on amendment: all approved, no opposition and 2 abstentions.

Motion to approve amended proposal. Results of Motion: 35 yes, 3 abstain, 1 no".

September 12, 2021:

Called Congregational Meeting, 9/12/2021: KUUF congregation **approved** vote to make offer to original owner of 604 Bridge Street, Houghton, former Chinese Baptist Church.

June 12, 2022:

Proposal to the Fellowship **approved** at Annual Meeting 6/12/2022 and previously approved by the KUUF Board: 5/15/22:

[quoting KUUF Annual Meeting Minutes 6/12/2022]

“Proposal for next 12 months:

- \$330K available from Susan’s gift.
- \$185K allocated for purchase of new building; \$50K for maintenance and/or improvements.
- \$2K allocated annually to commemorate Susan for next 4 years
- Years 1 & 3 will go to CCAC art events; Years 2 & 4 Portage District Library will host a bike event.
- \$66K to be invested in the lowest risk category and be accessible and able to be withdrawn without penalty.

Cindy moved and Jan Dalquist seconded the proposal for how to manage Susan Hooker’s gift for the next 12 months. All approved, none opposed, no abstentions”

Late Summer 2023:

Many congregants observed the new owners of 604 Bridge St. had stopped their building improvements.

The KUUF Board and others worked with a KUUF designated representative to reach out to the new owners. After discussions, the KUUF Board approved pursuing purchase based on previous congregational votes, see above. KUUF Building Trust Fund Trustees approved using the Building Trust Fund to assist in purchase. After the usual purchase negotiations, an offer for \$180,000 was accepted. Contingencies were resolved: parking questions, structural engineering, county and city usage permissions, among other concerns.

October 2023:

KUUF announces to congregation that 604 Bridge St in Houghton has been purchased and improvements will begin. Use for services hoped for by Summer 2024.