

## PART 2

### Salem Lutheran Church + Public Safety Foundation (PSF) Potential Partnership Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): Updated April 11, 2024

#### **I am concerned about giving up space we use, like the conference room, handicap bathroom and office space for new staff. Why did the plan change?**

It does feel more challenging to share the first floor of our building. However, **the location of the elevator makes it difficult to rent out the upper and lower floors (where much of our unused space is) while keeping the rented space separate from the congregational space.** This would be true with any renter.

**In the case of the Outpost, handicap accessibility is of primary importance.** From a practical standpoint, it makes more sense to lease out space on the first floor than to install another elevator or allow the public to share our elevator.

**Salem will have access to a conference room on the second floor,** which will be well equipped for our needs. We will also retain the use of the Great Hall, library and the offices needed for our current staffing, which will all be located on the first floor. If we need to add more office space, there is still plenty of accessible space that can be adapted to meet that need.

**A new, handicap-accessible men's bathroom would also be built** for Salem on the first floor. The current men's room is badly in need of an upgrade, and this would allow Salem to update it at no additional cost to the congregation. The new bathroom would most likely be located in the Caring Ministry Lounge (old pastor's office), which is also closer to the Sanctuary.

#### **What are the constitution requirements for this decision?**

**The congregation will vote to give the Congregational Council approval to move forward, as this project will impact our budget by more than \$5,000.** C12.05.b of the constitution requires such a meeting: "The Congregation Council may enter into contracts of up to \$5,000.00 for items not included in the budget."

#### **What is the timeline for the project?**

See the [timeline on the blue paper](#) for a tentative timeline of the project. With all the variables of fundraising and construction it's difficult to pin down a firm timeline, but the **task force and council are committed to keeping the congregation informed as the project progresses.**

#### **In case of fire in the evening, how will people evacuate from the second floor or the basement?**

**All areas of the building will be up to fire code.** There will be accessible exits from all areas of the building.

**Will the federal grant already received be sufficient?**

**The \$475,000 appropriated by Amy Kloubachar will not be used for this project.** Because of the strings attached to federal funding, that grant will be used elsewhere.

**The GSCPSF will raise the funds for this project.** There will be contractual assurances that the renovation project and the lease payments will be funded appropriately.

**Will the NA meeting downstairs be hosted by Salem or the Outpost?**

**The NA meeting will continue to be hosted by Salem.** If in the future, we choose to rent the basement space, we would continue to consider the groups that already use our building for mission-aligned activities. The blessing is that we have so much meeting space in our building.

**Will there be shared internet, or will we maintain our own systems?**

That's something we still don't know. **However, all parties are aware of Salem's internet needs, and we will not be decreasing our current service.**

**Who is responsible for liability?**

The Foundation, CentraCare, the police department, and St. Ben's **all carry necessary insurance.**

**How will signage be handled?**

**The Outpost will be labeled with needed signage, purchased by the Outpost.** Salem is responsible for our signage. There will be outdoor signage for both of us on the north end of the property. The Outpost will need options on the north exterior to make it clear where their entrance is, and that is important for Salem too. The logistics will be negotiated with the council after the vote.

**Will the Outpost expand to include an urgent care?**

**Probably not.** However if it would, this would be after discussions with the Outpost, CentraCare and Salem.

**What about adding youth outreach or after-school services?**

That's certainly a possibility for the future, but **the immediate need based on research is for the health care services.**