UPUCC Garden

Design Program based on survey results and discussions
Overall Intentions

• Provide an aesthetically pleasing design for the outdoor area on the northern side of the church.

• Should be easily accessible for all who wish to visit.
Design should reflect the UPUCC Covenant, especially in the following excerpts:

“Seek, in our quest for the truth, the presence of the divine … in all of creation;”

“… through joyous celebration, savor the goodness of life;”

“Claim our inescapable connection with the sacred earth and all of creation;”

“This we know: In our faithful sojourning, we do not walk alone. God is present with us. We have not yet arrived. God continues to beckon. We seek no destination. The sacred journey is our home.” (This could be a wonderful quote to use along the meditative path or at the entrance to the labyrinth.)
• Use environmentally sustainable practices whenever possible. This means that we’ll use only native plants, except for the central lawn area, and leave as much permeable ground surface as possible.

• Should be relatively low-maintenance.
Children’s Natural Exploratory Area

- Primary goal is to provide a space where children can spiritually connect with nature - through worship, study, and exploration of the outdoor environment.

- Located in the wooded area;

- Remove as few trees as possible, (only dead trees and branches, as well as those with < 4” caliper).

- Include different areas for: meeting, playing, and connecting with nature.
Climbing, Balancing
Art with Natural Materials
Spaces to Perform and to Meet
Meandering Path through the Woods

- Handicap accessible (possible wooden boardwalk or cleared and heavily mulched path); minimum 4’ wide.
- Stay as level as possible.
- Secondary paths lead to various “destinations”, such as children’s areas and rock outcropping.
• Meditative stopping points with seating, and possibly poetry/quotes, can be placed along the way.

• Aesthetic entry, such as arbor or gate, placed so that it can be seen from other garden area closer to building. This would signify to visitors that they are entering a special place.
Boardwalks with “Guardrails”
Simple Boardwalks
Boardwalk with Seating
Entrances to Woodland Path
Contemplative Garden

- Design a quiet space for meditation, prayer, or reflection.
- Can be combined with meandering path, labyrinth, and/or larger gathering space.
- Might include small water feature that could be easily maintained.
Swing
Labyrinth
Mindful Quotes for Labyrinth

I have set the Lord continually before me; because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.
You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.
Psalm 16:8-11

Labyrinths offer the opportunity to walk in meditation to that place within us where the rational merges with the intuitive and the spiritual is reborn.
Gathering Space for Social Events

• Located in former loading dock area.
• Large glass windows in sanctuary become doors to provide easy access.
• Access needed from floor level of sanctuary down to ground level of garden.
• Must be a beautiful, enticing view from sanctuary.
• There should be a relatively open area where larger groups can congregate.
• Varied seating needed, some moveable.
Memorial Garden

• Area where Twila’s tree and flower bulbs are planted can be expanded somewhat.

• Create a more unified design with seating; possibly a seat wall to define area in an aesthetically pleasing manner.

• Provide signage, possibly with appropriate quote, to indicate significance of area.
Stones could be placed in path or patio in memorial garden
Butterfly Garden

- Needs to be in sunny area, probably on north side of drive, receiving southern sun.

- Could possibly be incorporated into memorial garden.
Memorial Garden Ideas

Seat Wall

Butterfly Garden