

Jim Sundholm

Jim Sundholm was a pastor over 25 years in Minneapolis and started over 18 not-for-profit ministries from within his church, Community Covenant Church of Minneapolis.

Hold off as long as possible before creating a 501-C-3 for Summit building. It's expensive unless you have a lawyer friend who will set it up pro-bono. We will need it at some point for liability.

Program needs to be intentional.

Create a diverse board from your congregation, separate from the council.

It can become a slippery slope when you add non-members. Move thoughtfully in choosing board; they need to understand job description and what role they each play.

Consider a for-profit; just because you run a for-profit organization doesn't mean you have to make money, but having a for-profit organization means less paperwork.

SOMEONE NEEDS TO OWN IT!

First three years the program runs well, and then you can anticipate challenges in the 4th or 5th year (typically personnel problems - people like to create things, but get bored with sustaining or managing the programs).

We asked the question: What options do you think will give us the greatest opportunity for success?

Answer:

- This is a tough question because we have so many options. At Community Covenant it was clear that children were the mission
- Sit in the building, invite folks in for coffee, meet the neighbors and see what occurs
- Do not have a fear of failure, take a risk, No bad idea. If you don't risk or try you'll never know what could work.
- 4 out of 5 ideas will fail
- Look at your asset development (people/gifts)
- How do you thoughtfully put together your ideas

It is possible that a foundation would give us a grant for an Executive Director for possibly two years

Our asset (the building) is strong; grow into the space.

He said we have a "big brain" church:

- We have a lot of brainpower; volunteers work in their areas of strength
- people own their own businesses
- long business history in membership

FCC might not be a low-income ministry; we should be aware of what is going on in the community.

Ideas for how we might use the space:

- Host forums (business lunches, etc.)
- Gathering place for parents, parent groups, kids.
- Single parenting class
- Volunteers to play with kids
- Don't need to worry about adding "churchy" stuff in this space - we have great things happening next door - our presence should be enough.

Thoughts on what we should do to update the space:

- Good bathrooms
- Locker room (shower)
- Decent kitchen

If we rent a portion of the space: be careful. Renters will bleed into the rest of the space because it's there.

Whatever you do in the Summit Building, is part of the church, it's not just the project of an anonymous group of people.

Jim's hope is that whatever we do, builds the Church - that our works intentionally draw people into the larger community.

Do not give the space away...