

September 18, 1992

Dear Friends,

I am mailing you the recommendation of the Long Range Planning Committee. This committee was formed more than three years ago because the members of our Fellowship felt the need to make changes in order to meet the needs of our growing community. Many hours of hard work and sincere dedication to learning what is feasible for our Fellowship have been given by the members of the Long Range Planning Committee. You now have the result of their labor. On September 13, 1992 the Felton family indicated to the LRPC that their property is not for sale. Their decision limits what can be done at the Lee Way site. Before you vote, please read this informative study and then make your decision as objectively as possible for you to do.

Sincerely,

Ruth M. Sheridan

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President of the UUFHC

LRPC Response to Statements on Issues of the Stay and Move Options

September, 1992

The Long Range Planning Committee has voted to recommend the move option. This was chosen after years of intensive investigation and study of the multitude of complex issues. To help clarify some of the concerns and issues that are facing the Fellowship, a brief summary of what are perceived to be the most important items were tabulated with responses which explain the committee's thinking about each item. The choices are not simple and in many cases not easily reached. Many choices require trade-offs, requiring us to give up something we currently want and have for the promise of something better.

We do not expect that everyone will agree with all that we say, what we hope to do is to provide each issue a common base for discussion. The objectives of this writing are:

- (1) To state concisely and as clearly as possible a response from the LRPC to potential issues and concerns of the Fellowship with regard to the advantages and disadvantages of the stay and move options.
- (2) To do the above using respectful and responsible language

Moving to the Churchville Road Site (Banks Property)

Issue	Response
1 The price of the Churchville Road site is an extraordinary bargain.	<i>The price being asked by the Banks is significantly below its market value. The Banks' generosity is related to our Fellowship's tradition of support and work for racial equality and justice. The Cost for all viable options at either site is about the same. A capital campaign will have to be carefully planned and executed to pursue any option.</i>
2 The Churchville Road site affords: (a) very high visibility, (b) central accessibility to new development in Harford County, Cecil County and York County as well as the established towns.	<i>Trade-offs: (a) Some feel that visibility may be less important to growth than reputation. (b) Some do not wish to be located on a major traffic artery. Turning left onto Rt 22 may be difficult at times. However, alternate routes are available to and from the site.</i>
3. The Banks lot is suitable, having a slight rise toward the back and a stand of mature trees, and poses no building problems. There are options for future expansion (two 1-acre adjacent lots that are now available and will likely be in the future).	<i>The lot of 3.68 acres is a little small for our needs, and some may find the telephone poles and wires unattractive.</i>
4. The surrounding area is racially and economically integrated, with both low and high cost housing nearby. Our location there will be a powerful public statement of our principles. This should help to increase the diversity of our membership and help to more readily serve the community.	<i>This Fellowship has a tradition of reaching out to all in the community.</i>
5. Given sale of our Lee Way site and a successful capital campaign, a new building on Churchville Road is financially do-able.	<i>The sale of the Lee Way site may have its difficulties, and some who do not want us to move may give less money to build on the Churchville Road site. This is balanced by those who want us to move, who may give less if we stay at Lee Way.</i>
6. Water and sewer needs can be met at the Banks site. There is no evidence of water contamination and perc testing has been successfully completed	<i>Some are concerned about water contamination.</i>
7. The Churchville Road site affords opportunity to serve a larger population and will almost surely mean a rapid growth of membership, budget, programs and influence on our community.	<i>Rapid growth of our membership may bring a feeling of apprehension, and a new location may bring feelings that this is not "my Fellowship".</i>

Staying at 210 Lee Way

Issue	Response
1 At Lee Way we can maintain the traditions of our Fellowship.	<i>There are many wonderful memories and old Fellowship traditions at the current site. We must work to preserve as many as we can while we change to meet our changing needs. However, if we move, some dear old traditions will be replaced with dear new traditions, begun at the new site.</i>
2 At Lee Way we are near Harford County government offices and have the prestige of a Bel Air address.	<i>It is very convenient to be located in the county seat. Access to Harford County government is easy. However, our interaction with the county is not significantly affected by our nearness to government buildings. The Churchville location is closer to the center of the county and the developing areas.</i>
3 At Lee Way we will probably remain a smaller, closer Congregation than if we move.	<i>Our Congregation has voted to embrace as our mission growth of Membership to match the population growth of our region.</i>
4. We can grow here as well as elsewhere.	<i>The likelihood of us meeting our growth potential at the Lee Way site is significantly lower than at the Churchville site. Future growth requirements and site-dictated building shapes and styles make the Lee Way option about as expensive as moving, with less gained to meet our needs.</i>
5. Our Lee Way location is beautiful and quiet.	<i>The beauty and quiet of our Lee Way site is outweighed by problems with the shape and the lay of the lot, and by our isolation. "Quiet" can mean "hidden" from more common knowledge of our existence.</i>
6. We are across the street from a park here.	<i>The park is an asset that we have enjoyed. If we move, its access will be lost. However, the Churchville site has ample room for children's outdoor activity.</i>
7. Given the purchase of the Felton property and a successful capital drive, we can afford to stay here and build.	<i>The Felton property is not available. Therefore, the projected needs of the Fellowship will be very difficult meet at Lee Way.</i>
8. The current membership is centered about the Lee Way site.	<i>The population center is moving away from Bel Air and, as we grow, we will draw members from these areas.</i>