



AT THE INTERSECTION
OF HERITAGE, FAITH,
& COMMUNITY

Partners for Sacred Places

**Community Engagement & Space
Sharing for the Modern Church**

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1989: Partners is Founded

- Partners' birth comes out of meetings of leaders from New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago and New Mexico
- First Chairman was The Rev. Thomas Pike, Calvary/St. George's, New York
- Original funding from J.M. Kaplan Fund, Lilly Endowment and Henry Luce Foundation



Key Themes of Partners' Work

- **Care and maintenance of buildings**
- **Use of space & community engagement**
- **Civic value of congregations**
- **Fundraising for sacred places**



THE CIVIC VALUE OF SACRED PLACES

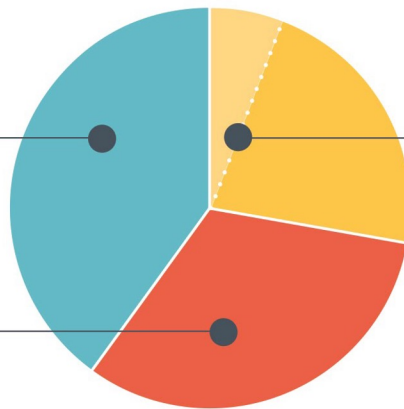
Economic Halo Effect of Sacred Places®: Findings from Philadelphia, Chicago and Fort Worth

Average Annual Economic Halo Value per Congregation

\$ 1,707,249

\$679,511
education (40%)

\$549,073
direct spending (32%)



\$478,665
catalytic (28%)

\$100,296
invisible safety net (6%)

\$375,944
magnet effect (22%)

Note: Invisible safety net: 5.9%, recreation space: 0.1% (\$2,425)

Economic Halo Effect of Sacred Places®: Magnet Effect

Number of Visits, 90 Congregations



3,648,735
visits per year

49% community programs

31% education

11% worship

9% special events



Magnet Effect accounted for 22% of the total at \$375,944 per congregation

Economic Halo Effect of Sacred Places[®]: Invisible Safety Net

Beneficiaries of Community Programs; Members vs. Non-Members



 **13%**
Congregation **members**

 **87%**
Non-member beneficiaries
of community programs

Invisible Safety Net accounted for 6% of the total at \$100,296
per congregation

THE ASSET BASED APPROACH AND MISSION



Asset Based Community Development

Asset-Based

Start with what is present – not what is absent

Locally-Focused

Utilize the gifts and talents of the community around us

Relationship-Driven

Steward connections between and among individuals

An Asset Based Approach

If we take a community-based approach to the value of our older and historic churches, we can then ask:

- How does the use and future of our property relate to the character and legacy of our community?
- How does it fit into the mix of current and long-term trends and opportunities?
- How can the community, via stakeholders and civic institutions, play a role in our discernment and the stewardship of our buildings?

Judson Memorial Church, NYC – an irreplaceable part of the fabric of the city's arts, culture, and activism.



A Fresh Look at Mission

- Is mission aspirational?
- Is the language of your mission a theological argot for members?
- How can you translate your mission language in the vernacular of the commons?

Mission

- What we do everyday - our practice - our action in the world
- Describe it with *ACTION VERBS*
- i.e. *Encourage, Feed, Empower, Inspire*

A Fresh Look at Mission: Immanuel Nob Hill

”Immanuel is both a Sacred Place and a Civic Space. Here you will find amazing acoustics for concerts, an active Presbyterian congregation, and a hub of community activity all in the heart of the most walkable neighborhood of Albuquerque. There is something here for you.”



Aligning Mission and Building

Church Buildings for Collaborative Partnerships

- Dioceses of Indianapolis and Northern Indiana
- How can parishes look at mission, inventory their assets, and partner with community in order to make ministry flourish?



Civic leaders gather with clergy and lay leaders at St. Paul's, Evansville. The event included a tour followed by conversation about opportunities for partnership and connection that could make the most of the congregation's ample, historic downtown property.

THE PRACTICALS OF SPACE SHARING

What does the community need?

- Host an open house
- Host a more intimate gathering of key people in your community:
 - Civic associations, council people, artists, & social service orgs
- Let that info guide your decisions



Examples of Community Space Needs

- Social Service Organizations
 - *Home & food insecure, mental health, substance abuse recovery*
- Artists & Arts Organizations
 - *Studio & Performance artists need space for both creation & presentation*
- Civic Associations
 - *Neighborhood meetings, Zoning conversations*
- Child care groups & advocates

Sharing space means sharing expenses.



- Your space incurs expenses whether you are using it or not
- Your space could act as a safe community space
- Community members are in need of space for:
 - Meetings
 - Classes
 - Elections / Polling Places

**WHAT IS INVOLVED IN SPACE
SHARING?**

Physical Space

- The best natural fit for the space.
- Do NOT put a lot of capital dollars into a space to host any specific group.
- Minor touches & finishes to boost the space's aesthetics



Capacity & Fiscal Responsibility



- Human capacity to handle renters/space sharers
- Long-term anchor tenants may assist with rentals
- Do the math! Operational costs per room.
- Compare rates with other local spots *especially* other churches.

LOGISTICS

There is NO One Size Fits All Model

By Length of Time



- Short term one-time rentals
- Short term recurring partnerships
- Long-term sustainable, mutually beneficial

By Pay Scale

- Bartering skill for space
- Negotiated rates based on ability to pay and wear and tear on space
- Space in exchange for money

To do items...

Photographs



CHRIST CHURCH
NEIGHBORHOOD
HOUSE

OUR SPACES

Website & Social Media



UNITY
1917-2017
Lutheran Church + Chicago

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Welcome Who Are We Growing Our Faith Our Faith in Action Weddings **Space Sharing** Contact Us Donate Community Resources

Space Sharing

In it's Space Sharing program, Unity Lutheran Church fulfills three of its core values, "Welcoming Everyone," "Caring Community," and "Engaging Our Neighbor."

We partner with non-profits, family and friends in our neighborhood to share our building for those not wishing to, or not able to, maintain their own space. A fee is charged to cover our utility and maintenance costs. We're happy to work with you.

We have a beautiful gathering space that has excellent acoustics, a Gym, and a variety of meeting rooms. See some of our Space Sharing Partners [here](#).

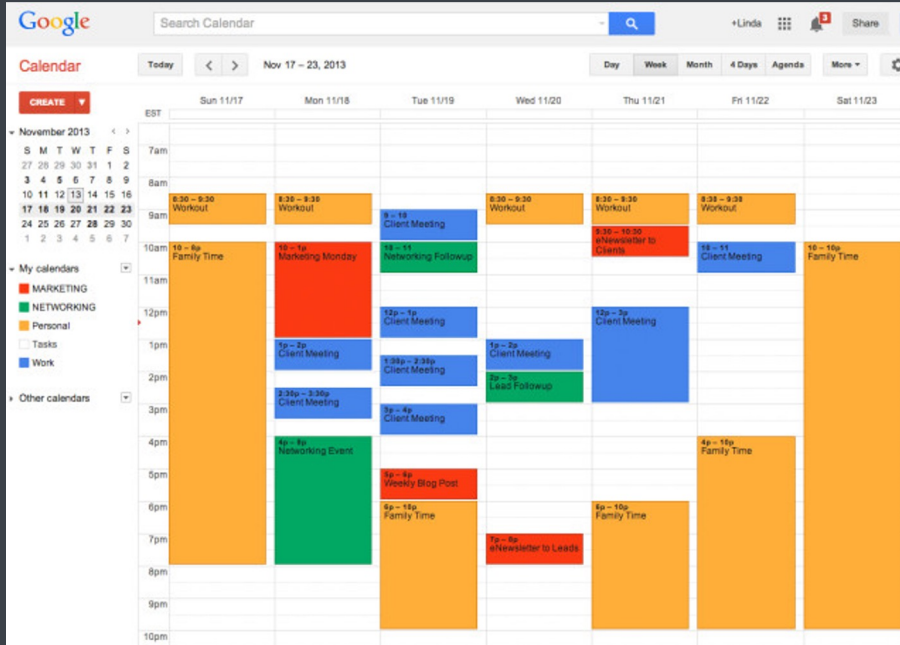
Partner with Unity, your Community Center!

Who should consider becoming a space sharing partner?

Our oldest relationship is with RefugeeOne after school program. We also partner with many local theater groups, recovery programs, musicians, sports programs, artists and writers. There is still more room, and we'd like to partner with you, whether you're from the arts community, LGBTQ community, education, health & well being, Yoga and healing practices, sports groups, 12 step group, immigrant organization, and more, we'd welcome a conversation with you!

More To do items...

Operations Calendars



Payment options

- Merchant accounts
 - Stripe
 - PayPal
 - Venmo
 - Cash App
 - Zelle
- Cash/Check

Last but not least!

- INSURANCE – a must have
- Sweat the small stuff:
 - Trash removal
 - Signage
 - Snow removal
 - Content
 - Storage

Q & A



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