

Joint Venture Ministry Team

Written by: Kathy Sykes and Beth Walker

Please list the members currently serving on your ministry or leadership team.

- ❖ From Old First: Spencer Anderson (deceased 12/18), Michael Caine, Megan Grimm, Bob Robinson, Kathy Sykes, Beth Walker and Jackie Williams
- ❖ From Community Ventures: David LaFontaine, Troy Hannigan, Patrick Isaac
- ❖ From DePaul USA: Sandra Guillory

Please list what the goals of your group or ministry were for 2018.

- ❖ Represent the Congregation in negotiations concerning the JVA, such as but not limited to design, funding, and community engagement. The JVMT shall report back to and consult with the Board of Elders and the Congregation. (Joint Venture Resolution, Congregational Meeting April 22, 2018)

Were you able to achieve your goals for 2018? What do you hope to accomplish in 2019?

- ❖ The team met our 2018 goals. In 2018, the Old First Joint Venture team initially met as a team in September 2018. Here is are our activities and accomplishments.
- ❖ Activities and Accomplishments:
 - Attended Opening of Centennial Square, a Community Ventures developed project in West Philadelphia .
 - Met with Representatives of Historic Preservation Commission.
 - Met with Director of Homeless Services.
 - Participated in interviews of potential architects and approved selection of BWA Architects as project architect.
 - Developed a Community Engagement Plan including preliminary meetings with identified helpful stakeholders and drafting of written materials for use in community engagement.
 - Competed Phase I Inspection and Civil Engineering inspection of the building site.
 - Identified potential issues in securing zoning and Historic Commission approval, feasible responses and preliminary timeline for further activities in 2019 and going forward.
- ❖ Our overarching goal for 2019 is challenging and exciting:
 - Submit an application for Federal tax credit funding by Fall 2019 and an application for PAFH funding/Philadelphia Office Homeless Services for 2019 consideration by the filing deadline (between spring and summer 2019). Note that approval for tax credit funding in the 2019 round will not be decided until spring 2020.
 - Ground breaking will not begin before spring 2021 and will depend on the successful completion of earlier required steps.
 - To reach this goal, with our partners, we will do the following:
 - Begin Community Engagement work which includes meeting with neighboring congregations, Old City Neighbors and community members, and City Councilman Squilla.

- Review preliminary and supplemental designs for building.
- Final design will be shared with congregation for a vote.
- Submit an application to remove 153 N 4th Street (CE building) from the “contributing” list with the Historic Commission.
- Hold meetings with the assigned Neighborhood Planning group where we will present our preliminary plans.
- Attend hearing with Historic Commission to obtain their approval for proposed design.
- Submit an Application for Zoning change from R-1 to R-3 or R-3.5.

What are the ways that the church can support your team?

- ❖ You can help in a variety of ways:
 - Pay attention and ask questions. (We are preparing a bulletin board display on this project which should be installed in the next 60 days).
 - Pray for God’s presence and grace in this undertaking.
 - Participate in our Community Engagement work through getting to know our Old City neighbors.
 - Host or attend one of the small group meetings wherein we provide updates throughout the year on how we are doing.
 - Celebrate our accomplishments as they occur, knowing that all of this will happen in God’s time.