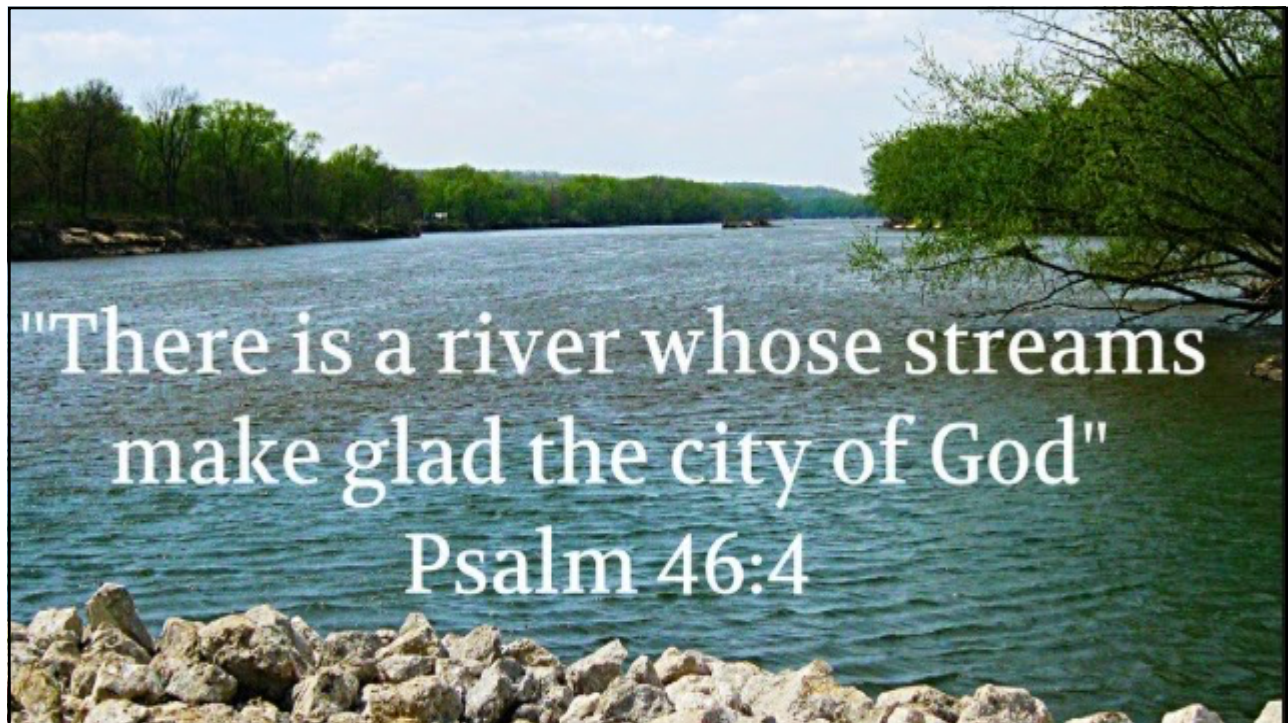


Where has River of Hope been?



Where
might
God be
calling us
anew?

1



"There is a river whose streams
make glad the city of God"
Psalm 46:4

2

What does River of Hope thriving look like?
What your hopes/dreams for River of Hope?

For ALL people to know they are welcome.

Be turbulent like a river.

ROH is changing, open to growth, people don't have to fit into a mold.

People excited to be in church.

Celebrates differences.

Opportunities for people to get plugged in.

More children and youth ministries.

Being in a church setting is important.

A place with good music and a variety of music.

A place that serves others.

A place that reaches youth and engages them, especially after confirmation. (not Sunday school)

3

What does River of Hope thriving look like?
What your hopes/dreams for River of Hope?

Embody neighborhood in a more authentic way. Membership should be representative of diversity of community.

RoH to be more recognized more within the community. Be recognized as an ELCA church. Known and identified through the greater 'church' – as ELCA.

Recognized as a "We Go Out" church

Identifiable space for people who may reach out for help and support. Two sites makes us disjointed

The fact that we do not own a building we do not have financial concerns regarding upkeep of a building. This allows us to focus on outreach activities.

4

What makes River of Hope unique?

The church service changes, we try new things, we're flexible.

Children included in the service.

It's okay to ask hard questions here.

Opportunity to have doubt in your faith.

We welcome EVERYONE.

We like each other, we care about each other.

We are purposeful in welcoming strangers.

We are not defined by a building.

Doubts and questions are welcome.

5

Worship in a space like the event center

Advantages

- Less upkeep
- Ease of manipulating space.
- No mortgage, no need for capital.
- No clean up, snow removal, etc.
- Some unchurched people might be more likely to come to a worship space that doesn't look like a church

Disadvantages

- Set up and take down every week.
- We're always camping.
- It costs money and you have to plan to do special events on random days/times.
- Trying to "find us."
- Office space not part of worship space. Cost and convenience.
- Lack of storage.
- No physical place for prayer time.
- Some visitors more likely to enter a building with the architecture of a church

6

Sharing space with another worshipping community

Advantages

- Being in a church setting.
- Shared expenses for upkeep.
- Second-hand advantages of a church (kitchen, education space, organs, etc.)
- Easier partnership opportunities.
- Combined youth programming.
- Sharing staff (office & music) between both churches could be a financial advantage
- Office space within the same church would have all RoH under same roof
- Access to a space to come to pray
- Sharing would demonstrate collegiabilty between two different entities is possible.
- Demonstration of Christian unity

Disadvantages

- Lack of flexibility with time. New Wine study said we needed a morning a time.
- Difficulty in cooperation and buy-in.
- Mixed identity.
- Always a guest in someone else's house. We always feel like second fiddle. We were the stepdaughter.
- Another layer of "political" approval needed to do some things.

7

What are some important things not yet mentioned as we look for a new worship space?

- Question: Have churches asked us to join them/share space? Answer: Jill Warner at UCC has mentioned it, but no real detailed conversations have taken place. We haven't gone out asking either.
- Office space lease comes up in July or August. Event Center lease is more flexible...need to give them a month's notice. We have to be out of event center by end of December. It's *possible* that if the hospital acquires the event center we could rent it from them in the future.
- Important to have worship and office in same building so we don't have double rent payments.
- It would be nice to have a space where we don't have to set up and take down each week, even though there is something beautiful about that. Sundays are especially hard for Jim.
- How else could we utilize set up/tear down energy?
- What is the capital tolerance of our conversation? Can we afford to buy? Do we have to rent? Do we need a financial study?
- Typically purchases require additional pledges on top of regular giving from its members.

8

What are some important things not yet mentioned as we look for a new worship space?

- We need a BIG space. It can't be a small room.
- Asked for a show of hands about preference about morning versus evening versus Wednesday service. All over the board.
- If we want a shared space, we need to put some specific language into the lease agreement to avoid some of the stepdaughter feelings.
- Open communication with synod as a resource for possible assistance
- Share space with other human service providers. I.e., United Way, U-Capp, Habitat for Humanity, Common Cup, etc.
- If we continue to need separate office space we should consider moving into building where United Way and U-Capp are currently located

9

What other worship space do you imagine might provide advantages/disadvantages?

- Are there other churches that we can access that we can go into a partnership with to jointly put together a space? A building co-op philosophy.
- Family Video, Art Center.....spaces like that??
- Good Courage Farm? (Barn doesn't meet code for worship space)
- Crow River Winery? Crow River Golf Club? Need for more organic space. Formal church setting is changing as 'the church' evolves
- In the end, we remember that WE are the church.

10

Prayer of Good Courage

O God, you have called
your servants
to ventures of which we
cannot see the ending,
by paths as yet untrodden,
through perils unknown.

11

Give us faith to go out
with good courage,
not knowing where we go,
but only that your hand is
leading us
and your love supporting us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

12