

Proposed OSV/OCC Opportunity:

A Chance to Dream New Dreams

And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

Matthew 24:20-21.

There have been several meetings over the past few months between the board of Orinda Senior Village and members of the OCC Council, in response to a proposal from OSV to deepen the relationship between the two organizations in a way that builds upon the original mission of the OCC/OSV partnership. As you may know, affordable housing for seniors is a growing problem affecting our community and many others. In fact, there is more than a 3 year waiting list to get into OSV.

OSV has identified an opportunity to refinance its facility and to invest the funds in a new facility in Lamorinda to meet this growing demand. After having considered a number of opportunities, the OSV board, including OCC members Bill Abriel, Tom Norris, Babs Winbigler, Mike Kersten and Marilyn Welland, has invited OCC to participate in considering an expansion of OSV. To that end, church members including Pastor Jim Bergquist, Vice Moderator Fred Matteson, Kurt Sunderbruch, and Chris Mead were authorized by the Church Council to meet on August 8 with the OSV board to hear OSV's proposal.

The proposal, which is in its initial stages, is for about 40 units of moderately affordable, mixed income senior housing, which could with church approval be built on land leased from OCC on the upper hillside, above and possibly over the upper parking lot.

As of August 8, OSV was still in the consideration stages, although it is moving to secure funding should an appropriate expansion project become available. The OSV Board would prefer a project to be built as close as possible to OSV, consistent with both OSV's mission and OCC's ministry, with project governance and planning to be provided by both OSV and OCC.

This development would not only strengthen the existing relationship with OCC's mission partner, OSV, it would also provide needed senior, moderate income housing, and could let us dream about new ministries and opportunities here at OCC, allowing us to grow into our call and mission as a church.

It could be this generation's OSV project.

The Church Council will be collecting input from church members, including their hopes and dreams for such a project. Tom Norris has agreed to serve as OSV's initial Project Team Leader, to coordinate input from both the Church and OSV. Fred Matteson, Kurt Sunderbruch, Trudi Garland and Chris Mead have agreed to participate in an OCC exploratory committee.

As OSV's project takes shape the Church Council wants to involve OCC members in a process of discernment, imagination, and collective dreaming, which will begin at Homecoming Sunday, September 11. The exploratory committee members will be available then, but also each Sunday between now and then, as well as by e-mail, to answer questions and discuss the latest developments.

Here is the contact information for the Exploratory Committee Members and for initial Project Team Leader Tom Norris:

Trudi Garland	trudi@fibonacci.net	925.954.7166
Fred Matteson	fematteson@yahoo.com	415.690.5337
Chris Mead	cmead@cwclaw.com	510.915.1711
Tom Norris	tnorris@ciea.pro	925.254.9787
Kurt Sunderbruch	kurt_sunderbruch@yahoo.com	916-276-5220