Chalice House Moving Forward

For those of you who were able to attend the Town Hall meeting on January 26, thank you for your participation. For those who were not, the following provides an update and important information on the status of Chalice House.

As reported over the last few months, a number of key steps have been taken to transition the house that has been known as the “North Property” into Chalice House, a partnership with longtime service partner Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants (ICDI). The change will provide housing and hospitality to immigrants moving through the asylum process.

We have had an inspiring level of support for this change from many of you as well as from others outside the congregation. Upon final review of the project’s financial plan (see below), the Board formally approved the change in December, and preparations are now underway for the home to be ready for its new residents around May 1.

We hope that the following information answers questions you might have regarding status and plans for Chalice House. You can also find Chalice House information on the church website: [http://ccuu.org/chalice-house/](http://ccuu.org/chalice-house/).

Financial Impact

- Together with Treasurer Marcus White and Bookkeeper Robbin Realy, a 27-month budget for Chalice House has been created, which will cover the period of April 2020 (when we will no longer receive rental income) to June 2022. ICDI has indicated that, ideally, support is provided to its participants for two years, so a 27-month budget will enable us to be in a financial position to fulfill that commitment. The project can continue after that, at our discretion.

- During that 27-month period, funds will be needed to cover the cost of housing, including lost rental income, property taxes (until we secure tax-exempt status from Cook County), and estimated repairs on the property.

- We have completed our first round of fundraising to cover these costs. To date, estimated “inflows” – funds raised from 2019 Time & Talent, confirmed contributions from community partners, confirmed grants, and estimated amounts from fundraisers, contributions and grants – for the 27-month period are approximately $71,300.

- To date, estimated “outflows” – replacement of lost rental income, estimated repairs, and property taxes – for the 27-month period are $63,500.

- Our fundraising will cover the cost of providing housing to the family/individuals. ICDI will seek additional donations from other sources to cover the cost of providing social services. If we secure funds above and beyond what we need for housing, including the lost income, the surplus will go to ICDI for services.
- In other words, based on conservative estimates, we have sufficient funds to cover lost rental income, property taxes (until we obtain tax-exempt status for the property), and repairs with a nearly $8,000 cushion.
- This means that the change to Chalice House will have no impact on Countryside's operating budget.

Our four sources of funds include:
Support from the Community

We have a long list of community partners who have committed financial support or their time/talent to prepare the house. Financial donors from outside our congregation include:

- St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, Barrington
- Great Plains Zen Center
- North Shore Unitarian Church
- First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights
- Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights
- First Congregational Church, Crystal Lake
- St. John United Church of Christ, Arlington Heights

We will continue to reach out to congregations, faith groups, and other organizations interested in supporting Chalice House through donations or volunteer efforts. If you know of someone we should contact, please email chalicehouse@ccuu.org

In addition, individuals from outside the congregation have responded to the need by donating through Faithify, a crowdfunding site set up for Unitarian service projects. The Chalice House Faithify page can be found here… https://faithify.org/projects/immigrant-housing-in-chalice-house/. Feel free to share the campaign link with anyone who may be interested in supporting this project. The campaign expires on February 7, and the UUA Chalice Lighters Program will match 10% total donations received.

Legal Implications

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CCUU and ICDI was signed in December 2019. The MOU was reviewed and drafted by attorney and CCUU member and attorney Matt Myren. He continues to work with ICDI on drafting the underlying legal documents, including a lease (or similar agreement).
- We have notified our insurance carrier of the change in use of the property. Our carrier – Church Mutual – has approved the transition of the north property from rental housing to immigrant housing. Church Mutual has confirmed that the change will not impact our coverage or premiums, but that it will simply be labeled differently.
- Matt Myren, with guidance from a non-member attorney who specializes in zoning laws, is working to obtain tax-exempt status for the north property. Since property taxes are paid in arrears, we will need incur payments of property taxes for approximately one year after the transition. These amounts have been included in our 27-month budget estimates.

Communications

- Thanks to the talented Janet McDonnell, Chalice house has a logo that coordinates well with the logo of ICDI.
- We continue to provide ongoing communication with CCUU’s community partners in the Chalice House project. We hope to further build on these relationships.
- A webpage will be added to the CCUU.ORG website soon, which will house updates and information on how to get involved with Chalice House.
- In order to protect the privacy and safety of the residents of Chalice House, we will look to ICDI for guidance on the best way to communicate updates to our community partners and the public.
**Home Preparation**

- A robust and energetic team of volunteers – both from CCUU and our community partners – are actively engaged in getting the house ready for an anticipated May 2020 move-in by the ICDI participants.

- Alan Johnson, Andrew Sinclair-Georges, and Jeff Phillips are spearheading necessary repairs to the property, the most significant of which is the installation of new flooring. We received a $9,000 grant from the UUA Funding Program earlier this year – $6,000 of which can be used solely to cover repair expenses.

- Pat Wydell is coordinating home prep needs, and a Sign-Up Genius is available online — [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044e44a72fa13-chalice](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044e44a72fa13-chalice) — for those interested in donating furniture or other household items. One of our community partners, North Shore Unitarian Church, has generously volunteered to provide the vast majority of kitchen items needed.

- We are still working through the logistics of moving the furniture into the home, and we anticipate this will happen in the second half of April, once the necessary repairs have been completed.

- If you know of a contractor or cleaning service that may be willing to provide pro bono services, please let us know.

Our next Chalice House Team Meeting will be held on March 15 following the all-church potluck from 12:30 to 1:30. All are welcome!

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please reach out to Chalice House Co-Chairs Christine Organ and Laura Mandell at [chalicehouse@ccuu.org](mailto:chalicehouse@ccuu.org).

**THANKS FOR MAKING THIS VISION A REALITY.**

**WE ARE INDEED LIVING OUT OUR VALUES.**