

Challenges

Challenges

Listed below are six challenges that need to be address by the congregation.

- **Identity Confusion**—we think of ourselves as the owners of the property when we are the stewards. In God’s kingdom there is only one owner and that is God. Secondly, we share stewardship responsibilities with others who use the property with us. Thirdly, we think the property is the church when the congregation (the people) is the church. The property is the Pasadena Covenant Ministry Center. Sloppy thinking will lead us to making false assumptions.
- **Values Confusion**—we lack an agreed set of values and a plan to govern the use and development of the property. That is a goal of the Master Plan process.
- **Undervalue those who rent the property**—those of us who use the property are largely unaware of one another. As a result we miss God at work. We miss opportunities for collaboration and synergy. We would do better to think of our renters as major donors or even ministry partners. They, by the way, are making investments in the property as are the congregation.
- **Too much management pressure on too few, specifically Doreen Rudder and Jim Tyberg**—Doreen is forced to behave like a short order cook responding to the daily barrage of requests from staff, members of the congregation, the city, the homeless, and those who use the property. Jim has helped support a variety of things including project management of the Corner House and the Courtyard renovation. Jim would like to decrease his church responsibilities and it would not be wise to add more to Doreen’s already overfull plate. Joanne has provided needed facility help, but it remains to be seen if the church can continue to fund her position once a lead pastor is hired. I am willing to invest four hours a week to the cause but in reality we need someone to invest at least 20 per week. Of the six challenges that we face, this is the most significant to impeding progress.
- **Aging Property in Need of Repair**—we currently have a list of 160 maintenance items that need to be addressed. Some are minor, such as paint the door to Anita’s office. Others are major such as rewire the apartments. We need a five year plan.
- **Reality Based Dreams**— over the years we have generated dreams for the property. Those dreams need to take into account our limited fiscal resources, our limited human energy, and our limited management expertise. We also need to discover dreams that will benefit all who share the property while also advancing the growth of the church community.

