

All Souls staff members have been asked repeatedly how they see the decision to move or stay affecting their programs. The following statement is based on close-up day-to-day knowledge and experience of the functions and the internal workings of a program.

Mary Bain

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



To move or not to move – that is the question.

When I first saw the presentation I was so excited about this possibility, and then I was moved by the fact that a family was donating the land for this opportunity. When would something like this ever happen again?

Downtown Tulsa is experiencing Renaissance and it seems like every main line denomination has a flagship church there. All Souls would be visible and accessible and have room for our next generation of thoughtful, caring, intelligent, compassionate, justice-seeking, and tolerant children, as well as for the rest of us.

I have some tender feelings about leaving this space. I think our garden is one of the most beautiful spots in Tulsa and I had planned on my ashes residing there. As Adult Religious Education Coordinator, I also have some tender feelings about the fact that I have only two rooms on Sunday morning for adult programming. We have had to keep giving space up for children and youth. I would also like for adults to have what they would like and deserve. I will be sad if we leave these grounds on many levels, but this is much bigger than ME.

One recent Wednesday evening we had every nook and cranny full, and one group even tried meeting outside until the mosquitoes attacked. Our members who participate in Meditation, Yoga, and Tai Chi deserve a quiet space for their spiritual practices. They have been wonderful to tolerate the space we can offer them. One of my big dreams would be a building with a dedicated meditation space and room for more than one movement class without having to turn over a room filled with tables and chairs in a few minutes time (and sometimes having to dodge crumbs and sticky spots since there's no time to clean the floor).



I also dream of learning spaces that are wired to use the most current audio/visual equipment instead of the unending parade of Sextons and myself rolling a TV from room to room and many times another cart with the projector, laptop, and screen following.

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Mary Bain (CONTINUED)

I know that if I did not work here I might not understand what it takes to put all this on so I just wanted to give you a tiny glimpse. Actually, Aubrey Johnson and his team would be a really good resource for you to visit with about challenges they face in our current and wonderful home.

There are a lot of details yet to be determined if the vote is to move. We cannot even work on many of those details until we know if we are moving that direction. So I hope after listening and talking and thinking and praying the path becomes clear for you. Maybe because I work here, but I hope not entirely that, I see an opportunity that I do not think we can pass up. Regardless of whether we go or stay, I will continue to serve All Souls with all I have. Love to you all.