

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.



Rick Fortner

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

I have been a part of All Souls Unitarian Church since 1986 and have always enjoyed the acoustics in our beautiful sanctuary. They are perfect for choral music, congregational singing, and acoustic instruments.

However, our choir loft has filled to the point of overcrowding, we have no dedicated rehearsal space, no place for break-out groups, and must vie with adult education and meetings to rehearse in classrooms. Our storage for music and instruments is limited, and our pre-function space is the hallway that also serves office and classrooms. There is no secure area to store personal belongings during rehearsals. Our Adult Music Program has expanded to include four adult choirs and more than 100 members who provide music for up to six distinctive services.

I dream of adequate rehearsal space and storage – and even of a Fine Arts wing where families could be together intergenerationally for the study and performance that enriches the spiritual life of those who perform it as well as those who hear it.

I imagine having lunch-time recitals that downtown workers could walk to and enjoy an introduction to our church, as well as the possibilities of collaborating musically with other downtown churches, fostering ties that will bind our community together in a spirit of cooperation that leads to acceptance of one another and our differing beliefs.

To be able to build, from the ground up, exactly what we need, an amazing opportunity. From my perspective, we would be best served by the move. My heart, however, is in serving the people and the church of All Souls and I will support fully whatever we do as a result of our vote on Nov. 20.

