

MSA Transition Board Report For meeting on January 23, 2017

Re. the Land and the Center:

The board believes that the current way forward for the best use of the land is to work in collaboration with other organizations. In this way, we expand the prospective funding network, even as we share in the strengths that each partner organization brings to the table. Because we are land rich and cash poor, we must rely on others to help us find resources to develop the site. We will build this "consortium" slowly over time, starting (it is hoped) with the A Rocha -- and possibly with support from the Covenant Church -- both connections that ¹James Amadon brings to the table. In essence the project he will seek to build is a center that focuses on creation care and social justice issues for the church. This will be built as an expression of and in partnership with A Rocha (and the exact terms of that relationship need to be worked out still).

James has agreed to three points as conditions for moving forward with his plan:

1. He must show evidence that he has enough resources identified/raised to support his family before he leaves his current job in June.
2. He must secure a firm commitment from A Rocha as a partner organization, and work with the board to define terms of the relationship to MSA.
3. He must offer evidence that he is able to raise money toward completion of infrastructure on the land (see below), and for initial program development costs.

James will aim to have his final vision document complete by February 2, at which point the board will begin to work with him to identify potential funding sources. At the same time he will begin to cultivate connections with his own network of resources, with the support of A Rocha.

In terms of the primary needs that these fundraising efforts are targeting, they are (in no particular order):

- Completion of the road
- Two "small house" units on the land to permit permanent presence
- Capping of the well
- Installation of electricity
- Installation of cable for wireless
- Completion of the classroom building and surrounds
- Landscaping of the "public space"
- Installation of parking spaces
- Legal consultation regarding the details of working with partners

¹ It should be emphasized that James has not yet told his present employer that he is leaving his position later this year, so we need to keep this information confidential.

Re. The Seattle School and the Center for Practical Inquiry

The Seattle School connection continues to be a potentially viable consortium partner, especially as we continue to explore the possibility of a Center for Practical Inquiry. Forrest continues to work with Derek McNeil and Brit Olson on a pilot project, to be employed this spring -- one that uses ethnographic methods and elements of the MSA process to explore new expressions of church life and service for St. Luke's in the Ballard community. The hope is that this project will serve as a prototype expression of the Center's strategy of the promoting of innovative thinking as the church re-imagines itself and its role in society. Again, this will simply be an experimental step in continuing the process begun several years ago, when Tom led the initial workshop at St. Luke's. In time, it is possible that this will lead to a more comprehensive Center that is also tied to the consortium project on the land, but time will tell. Derek is seeking possible grant funding for this initial step.

Next Steps:

Our immediate tasks for the month of January:

The board, in cooperation with James Amadon, is working to finalize some descriptive proposal text that can be adapted for appeals to various organizations. Forrest will continue the dialogue with Construction for Change to see if we can make the completion of the classroom, installation of utilities, and possibly completion of the road an appealing an attractive project for them; they will consider our request at their board meeting on February 7.

For February:

Forrest will meet with David again to review permits for land projects. James will begin making appeals his partner organizations (above). Greg Abel and Greg Nelson will work with him on a strategy for identifying other potential donors.