

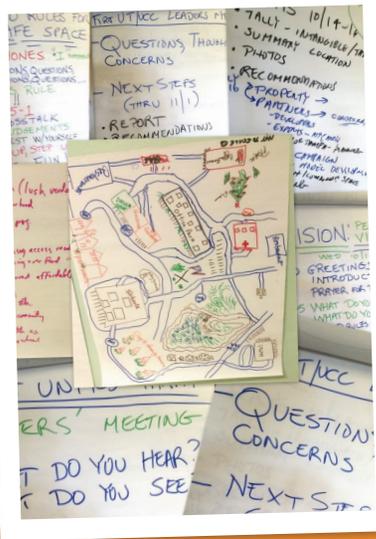
# PEACE VILLAGE

A multi-use building and property embodying  
the Beloved Community in the 21<sup>st</sup> century





*First United members take part in the visioning process.*



*Together, the group generated dozens of ideas in response to the question, "What is Peace Village?"*

## THE VISIONING PROCESS

In four sessions over two days through individual sharing, small group dialogue, leaders meetings, visualization in small groups, and individual prioritization of tangible and intangible elements, both leaders and a diverse representative group of First United Church of Tampa members demonstrated a strong consensus that was consistent with both the Peace Village concept and strategic plan.

## ABOUT PEACE VILLAGE

As the congregation of First United interprets today's troubling times, its desire has been to position itself for ministry and service to the present and future populations of Tampa.

We envision a new location that will include an innovative worship center, multi-purpose community space, gardens and pocket parks, and affordable senior housing. It will become a locus of ecumenical gatherings, educational activities, programs and services that serve the range of human needs. This place may include or be close to shopping, restaurants, health facility, entertainment and recreation, and have access to major transportation arteries. It will be a work of the church, but this place shall not seek to repel or differentiate through dogma and doctrine. Everything about this place will reflect the Beloved Community. It shall be a warm, and welcoming, environmentally-friendly, sustainable village, witnessing to the love of God in all of creation.

It shall be "Peace Village".

## OUR ULTIMATE GOAL

Locate a 4-5 acre site in or near Seminole Heights, accessible to I-275 or I-75. The church will work to either purchase, build or renovate a new church facility and work in partnership with a development agency that provides affordable senior housing. This facility will be in a location near or in a community that is multiracial, multi-income and LGBT friendly. Such a campus should include:

- a multi-use sanctuary which could seat at least 250-300 and supports the "accessible to all" core value
- space for 40-50 900 square foot affordable senior living apartments
- multi-purpose smaller rooms which would include space for community partnerships for children's and seniors' programs such as child day care, charter school, counseling center, medical clinic, adult activity center, etc.
- a tech room, arts and crafts room and music room
- a kitchen and coffee shop and larger gathering room for meal service
- room for a community garden
- adequate parking both for residents and visitors
- easy accessibility to public transportation



First United Church of Tampa is a diverse, vibrant, growing congregation with an energetic and visionary pastor in Bernice Powell Jackson, and a savvy and committed group of leaders. The church has been a progressive leader in the Tampa community for decades, most recently performing the first marriages of loving same-gender people in the history of the city.

We believe that faith is a matter of heart and mind.

We believe that taking the Bible seriously does not mean taking it literally.

We believe that God embraces all people equally.

We believe that Christ calls us to be nothing less than global citizens.

We believe that the social expression of love is justice.

We believe that every generation is called to discover new faith traditions.

We believe that God continues to speak through the actions and words of persons today, just as in times of old.

## ABOUT FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF TAMPA

First United Church of Tampa (UCC) is a congregation steeped in more than a century of responding to God’s call to “do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.” From our very earliest days as a congregation, we have reached out to the larger Tampa community, often breaking human-made boundaries to do so. It is in this role as change agent in the world that we see ourselves as part of a global village. Our common faith journey leads us to work ecumenically and across lines of faith and to challenge ourselves to expand our understanding of God’s call to us. As part of our commitment to being a multiracial and multicultural church, we also feature a growing and spirited Spanish language worship service.

We are distinctive for living out our progressive Christian faith within our unique combination of strong core values:

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- We are an **“Accessible to All” church**, with a history of including people with disabilities fully in the life of the congregation.
  - We are an **“Earth Charter” church**, dedicated to building a just, sustainable global environment.
  - We are a **“Multiracial and Multicultural” church**, embodying and rejoicing in the diversity of the human family.
  - We are an **“Open and Affirming” church**, welcoming all people of all sexual orientation and gender identities into the full life and leadership of our congregation.
  - We are a **“Peace with Justice” church**, with a long history of peaceful opposition to intolerance, injustice, discrimination, violence and war.
  - We are a **“Relationship-Building” church**, enabling us to address together with interfaith, ecumenical and secular communities issues of common concern in our community and throughout the world.
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## LET US START BUILDING!

This brochure communicates the shared vision of Peace Village as it has been conceived by the leaders, members and friends of First United Church of Tampa UCC. It represents the culmination of several years of work by the church, conducted in a spirit of love, openness, inclusion, and transparency. We offer this vision to you in the hope and expectation that you will share our aspirations to create a warm, welcoming, environmentally-friendly, sustainable village. Your pledge to the Peace Village is a once-in-a lifetime opportunity to play an integral role in witnessing to the love of God in all of creation.

*~ Rev. Dr. Bernice Powell Jackson*

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### **Gifts of Transformation** (\$15,000 - \$24,999+)

*Your gift will be honored and acknowledged with a personalized stone on the walkway leading into Peace Village.*

### **Gifts of Inspiration** (\$10,000 - \$14,999)

### **Gifts of Challenge** (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

### **Gifts of Empowerment** (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

*Gifts of Inspiration, Challenge, and Empowerment will be honored on a plaque inside the Sanctuary.*

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**To be a part of the creation of  
Peace Village please contact  
First United Church of Tampa  
firstunitedmail@yahoo.com  
(813) 988-4321**

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### **PASTOR BERNICE POWELL JACKSON**

Rev. Dr. Bernice Powell Jackson has been pastor of First United Church of Tampa for seven years. She is an activist on behalf of human and civil rights, women's rights, and has been an advocate for peace with justice and ecumenism around the world. Born and raised in Washington, D.C., she is a graduate of Wilson College and holds master's degrees from the Columbia University School of Journalism and Union Theological Seminary and received honorary doctor of humane letters degrees from Defiance College and the Florida Center for Theological Studies. Pastor Bernice has been married to Dr. Franklyn Jackson, a retired school administrator, for nearly 25 years.

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*We are a multi-racial, multi-cultural, open and affirming community dedicated to working together to show God's love for all. We are people not afraid to speak out for and work for justice and peace. We are a congregation that is multi-income, that welcomes people of all abilities. We have been change agents in the larger Tampa community for 131 years—speaking out against government corruption 75 years ago, reaching out to our Muslim brothers and sisters for nearly two decades, serving in leadership positions in our local faith-based community organization as it works for systemic change...*

### **FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF TAMPA**

7308 E. Fowler Ave., Tampa, FL 33617  
813-988-4321 | [www.ucctampa.org](http://www.ucctampa.org)

*"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here."*

*I told them that the hand of my God had been gracious upon me, and also the words that the king had spoken to me. Then they said, "Let us start building!" So they committed themselves to the common good.*

*~ Nehemiah 2:18*