

Alki United Church of Christ Fall 2020

Purpose Statement

We are a faith community growing together as disciples of Jesus Christ, courageously sharing God's love with each other and the world.

Vision Statement

With God's love at our core, we partner with diverse faith communities and local organizations to actively create paths of peace, justice, compassion, fellowship and inclusion.

Our Future Story

Introduction: It is January 2026, Alki UCC is thriving. Friends of the church are asking "how did you get to this place of such activity and community spirit?"

Alki United Church of Christ is the founding member of the Alki Multifaith Center, a dynamic collection of progressive faith communities which started in 2021. It includes Alki UCC, Kol HaNeshamah Synagogue, a MAPS satellite office (Muslim Association of Puget Sound), a Buddhist meditative group, and an LGBTQ+ praise group. While each faith organization worships separately, they all work on various social justice projects, such as addressing climate change and systemic racism, raising up the LGBTQ+ community, building affordable housing and reforming our broken immigration system. Quarterly they share spiritual offerings such as contemplative prayer, meditation, labyrinth walks, praise music, and reflection.

To facilitate the Community Center, Alki UCC removed the stationary pews in the sanctuary to create an open multipurpose-use space; it renovated and enlarged the kitchen to serve community meals; the older building underwent significant renovations to increase its usable space and be environmentally responsible. The Center is now selling

back electricity to the grid from its solar panels! The building hosts various activities with an enlarged music room, a technology space for afterschool students, and offices for community groups. To facilitate the changes and renovations, Alki UCC utilized resources of the *Partners in Building Church Differently*, a program of the Church Building and Loan Fund, embarking on a five-year plan.

Organizationally, The Center is managed and operated by a 501(c)3 that has an Advisory Board with representation from each faith community and community partners.

The Center also houses satellite locations for Black Lives Matter, elected officials, West Seattle Clothesline and Food Bank, and Immigration Services. AA and other recovery programs find a safe and welcoming home here. The Center offers a variety of Religious, Theological and Spiritual classes with the faith communities as well as for the community at large. Twice a year the Center hosts a “Spirit and Health Day”, a day of free health-related workshops and services for the surrounding neighborhoods with a particular emphasis on equity and education. All of the faith organizations have experienced a sense of renewal and commitment to practice their faith journey. This is evident in the number of calls and drop-ins happening daily by those with questions or seeking help, and consequently, has led to increased memberships.

The Center developed an Intergenerational Community Arts Program which involves drama, music, creative writing, and sacred dance. Music has always been a deep spiritual call for God’s action at Alki UCC, so leadership put that front and center to the activities at the Multifaith Center. A dynamic community choir thrives here, as well as a community orchestra and a sacred dance troupe. The Center supports various youth programs such as a cooperative preschool, an afterschool program with technology support and internet access, parenting classes, scout troops, and a summer kids program. The Center also

provides opportunities for interfaith collaboration providing Mutual Aid to the greater West Seattle community, as well as supportive personal safety net programs addressing issues of loneliness, accidents or illnesses, dementia, major life changes such as job loss, divorce or separation, death of a loved one, family crises involving children, or a natural disaster. The Alki Multifaith Center is a Red Cross certified response center.

This five-year journey has been equally challenging and wondrous as we discerned and manifested God's call to Alki UCC, made possible by tremendous visioning, faith and trust in one another.

10/26/2020