



Visions for RUC Buildings and Grounds

3/2/2021



Our Visions

Our intention is to enhance and evolve our current facility and property as a vehicle to live into RUC's vision and values.

The four RUC foundational mission priorities are:

- Care of the RUC family
- Care of our neighbors
- Commitment to social justice
- Care of the earth

These priorities are woven throughout and have prioritized the proposed Building and Grounds-related projects outlined below.

Values that further bolstered these efforts were:

- Enhancing accessibility
- Celebrating diversity and inclusion
- Embracing technology
- Creating flexibility in building and grounds to be responsive when needs or inspiration arise.



Proposed Projects

1. Add a Playground
2. Increase Sustainability
3. Create an Outside Fellowship Space
4. Enhance the Memorial Garden
5. Renovate the Kitchen
6. Improve the Accessibility and Flexibility of our Building
7. Activate our Parking Lot



1. PLAYGROUND

We envision this as an interactive art and play center, accessible and intergenerational. It should have play equipment, natural landscape elements, sensory experiences (chimes) and it should provide opportunities for artistic expression for the children and adults of the congregation and local artists.

*Care for the RUC family, Care for our neighbors,
Commitment to social justice*



Create Sensory Experiences



Provide Accessible and multigenerational play equipment





Janey Elementary School, D.C.

Encourage Artistic Expression



Margie's Garden at Rising Phoenix

"the magic of all art is the ability to both capture our pain and deliver us from it at the same time" Brene Brown



2. Make RUC's building and grounds a sustainability statement

Our grounds should exhibit our values.

This would make our grounds consistent with the work done within the building with lighting, composting kitchen waste, avoiding single use plates, and soon, new windows.

Care for the earth

Master Plan



Create a no-mow hillside



Create a Dry Stream bed



Provide Rain barrels or a cistern



3. Create an Outdoors Fellowship Space

If we can create a space that serves as a transition between the inside and outside, we can extend the life of the congregation into nature and into the neighborhood, lessening the isolation of the building and creating an invitation to our neighbors.

Care for the RUC family, Care for our neighbors



Outdoors Fellowship Gathering/Performance Space

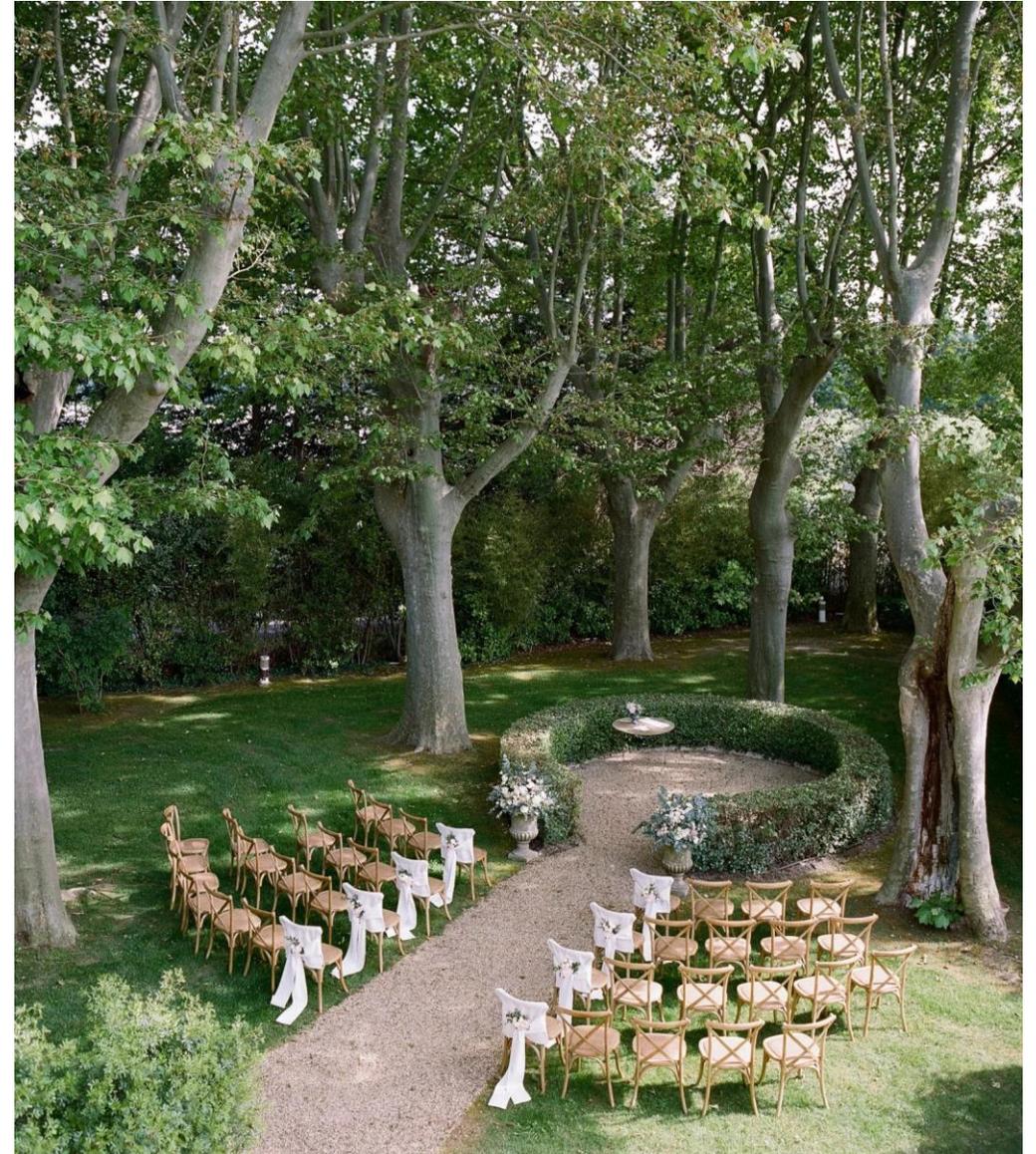
A terrace or deck could be a place where we gather to picnic, watch movies together, provide live music for ourselves and neighbors.

Care for the RUC family, Care for our neighbors



Outdoors Gathering Ceremonial Space

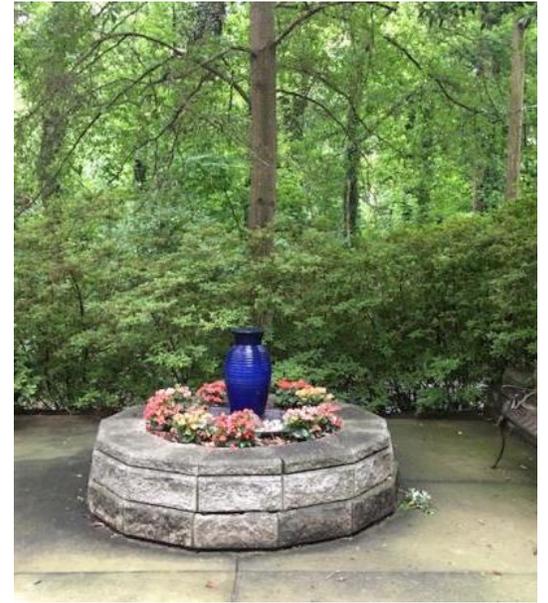
A gazebo could enhance our ability to rent our facilities and provide a focus for ceremonial use (weddings, blessing of the animals and other worship opportunities) it would lessen the image of our church as an isolated building on a hill and create a sense of invitation.



4. Enhance the Memorial Garden

Increase accessibility of the garden, create a place for gathering and for solitude. We could add an open gate to define sacred ground and to invite members and neighbors to enter. Add the names of those interred

Care for our Congregation, Care of Community





5. Renovate the Kitchen

Improve efforts at food missions, enhance fellowship use of building for ourselves and renters: replace the stove and dishwasher, add an ice maker, improve work flow

Care for the RUC family, Care for our neighbors

6. Improve the accessibility and flexibility of our building

Elevator, renovate all bathrooms to be truly accessible, build on success of making bathrooms gender neutral. Add showers, sleeping facilities.

Care for our Congregation, Commitment to Social Justice



7. Activate Our Parking Lot

Make our parking lot an outreach to the community and a statement of our values:

Add art on the asphalt to reflect our values (our own BLM plaza?)

Make the lot available for a farmers' market, or another function useful to the neighborhood

Care for our neighbors, Commitment to Social Justice



Goal for the near future

Price and prioritize these projects

