

Message from the Board of Directors to the Congregation Regarding the Proposed  
Rental Agreement Between the First Universalist Church and the Drop-In Center  
September 17, 2023

Dear Members and Friends,

On Monday, October 16, the Board sent to the Drop-In Center leadership a proposed rental agreement to define the relationship between the First Universalist Church and the Drop-In Center. The proposed agreement is the latest in a series of efforts to address the vexed issue of shared resources, most notably time and space.

Shortly after the inception of the DIC, there were good faith efforts in the Spring and Summer of 2022 to address the challenge of shared resources. These efforts proved to be unproductive. At the November 6, 2022 Congregational Meeting, the Board and the DIC leadership were given the task of developing parameters regulating the DIC's use of church space. The Board adopted these parameters at their April 12, 2023 meeting; the parameters and the meeting minutes may be found on the Board blog.

The DIC's decision to become an independent 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation changed the relationship between the Church and the DIC. The DIC would now be a tenant, and the Board and the DIC would have to establish a rental agreement. The rental agreement, like any rental agreement, places a monetary value on the DIC's use of the church's resources: the days that the DIC operates and the spaces that the DIC occupies.

The Board did not come to this proposed agreement easily, as is witnessed by the time it took to develop the agreement. However, we are very aware that the church has limited resources -- time, space, and money -- and that our fiduciary responsibility requires us to meet that issue head on.

The proposed rental agreement is attached, and will be available on the [Board blog](#) when the site is back up. Please feel free to address any questions to a Board member.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors