

January 15, 2012

FIRST PARISH CHURCH AND TEMPLE SHALOM DISCUSS SHARING SPACES

First Parish Church of Milton has invited Temple Shalom of Milton to begin discussions on the possibilities of sharing space on the current site of First Parish Church. First Parish Church has sought to expand its mission within and beyond the town of Milton and is in active discernment about how best to live into its commitment to “welcome all to grow deep faith and take bold action.” Temple Shalom seeks a permanent home. Discussions have begun to determine whether the congregations’ needs and visions might be congruous enough to share space.

Both communities still have much work to do to clarify their visions regarding their own internal needs, wants and desires for the future, and to envision how this could play out in the context of a “shared campus resource” concept. The process is currently at an exploratory stage and decisions on the nature and viability of any space-sharing arrangement will occur only after additional internal reflection within each community, followed by further discussion.

“This is a very exciting opportunity for us in First Parish to link with other communities of faith, while improving our use of our own physical resources,” said Melinda Collins, President of First Parish Church. Complementing these thoughts, Ronit Voigt, President of Temple Shalom, stated, “Our congregation would find it rewarding to be able to share a campus space with another Milton house of worship. We are looking forward to these discussions with a great deal of optimism.”

Temple Shalom sold their property at 180 Blue Hills Avenue in July, 2011 and has been renting space at various locations in town for its religious services and religious school. First Parish Church, in Milton since 1678, is located at 535 Canton Avenue next to Town Hall.

Contact: Melinda Collins, President, First Parish Church of Milton, 617-698-6329
Ronit Voigt, President, Temple Shalom of Milton, 617-698-3394