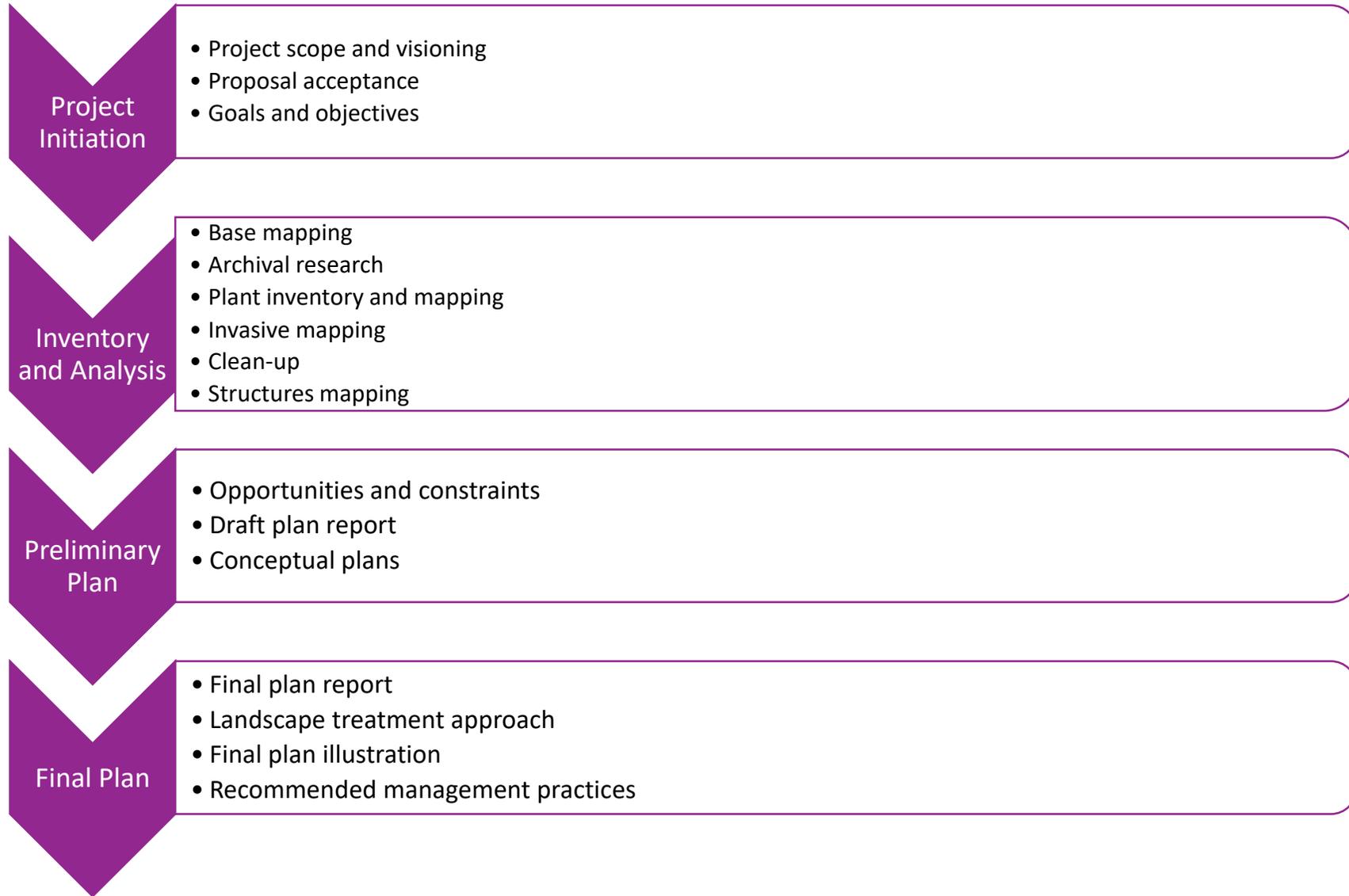




The Unitarian Church in Charleston, SC
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE AND PROPOSED SITE IMPROVEMENTS PLAN
SUMMARY



Vision Statement:

To honor the deceased and the past, preserve for the present and future, and create a peaceful, contemplative outdoor sanctuary for all who seek solace in the churchyard.

Goals and Objectives:

Goal 1: Honor the deceased and maintain the integrity of the built features in the churchyard.

Objectives:

- Restore and repair the built features while respecting the natural environment and historical and cultural context.
- Identify and prioritize needed repairs to headstones, walls, fences, copings, and paving.

Goal 2: Enhance the natural environment.

Objectives:

- Eliminate invasive and aggressive plants.
- Add native plants that are beneficial to wildlife.

Goal 3: Identify opportunities to monetize within the churchyard.

Objectives:

- Create a space that can function for small gatherings.
- Explore opportunities for honoraria/memorials.
- Identify opportunities for donations.
- Establish a perpetual care fund to maintain the churchyard.

Goal 4: Create a sustainable approach to maintenance and management.

Objectives:

- Establish best management practices with maintenance guidelines.
- Determine how to best utilize volunteers and contractors.
- Establish protocols/rules for introducing new plants.
- Create a revenue source to fund maintenance.

Goal 5: Develop a capital improvement plan for the churchyard.

Objectives:

- Identify priority repair and replacement of infrastructure (built environment + systems/utilities.)
- Develop a capital improvement budget.
- Explore opportunities to better design and utilize the space at the burning bowl and identify estimated costs for proposed improvements.

Goal 6: Explore how to move forward with the columbarium project.

Objectives:

- Finish the project or redesign and recycle the materials.
- Develop recommended alternatives.

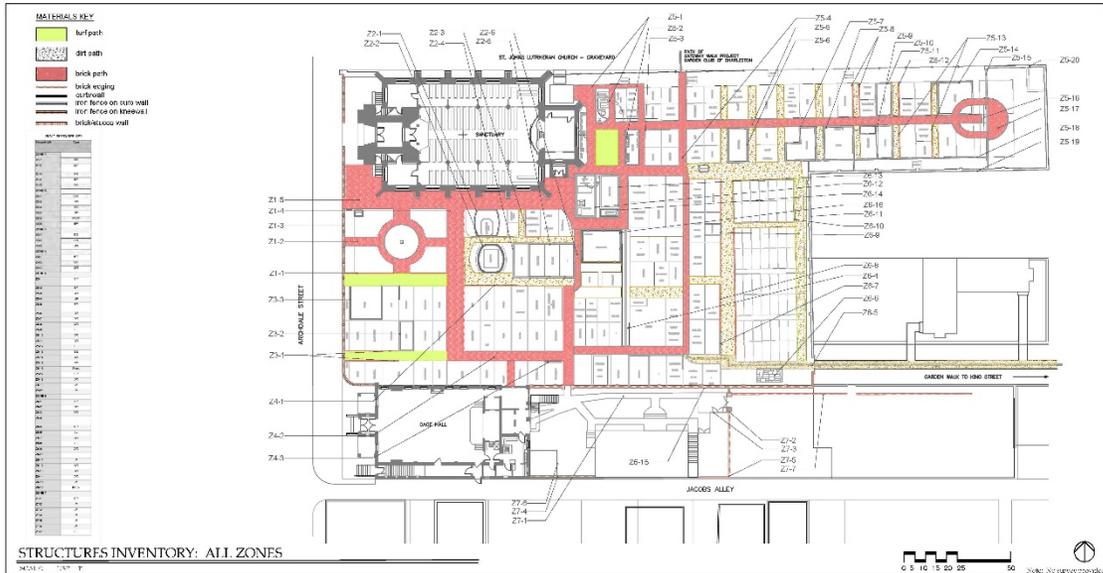


Existing Conditions Analysis

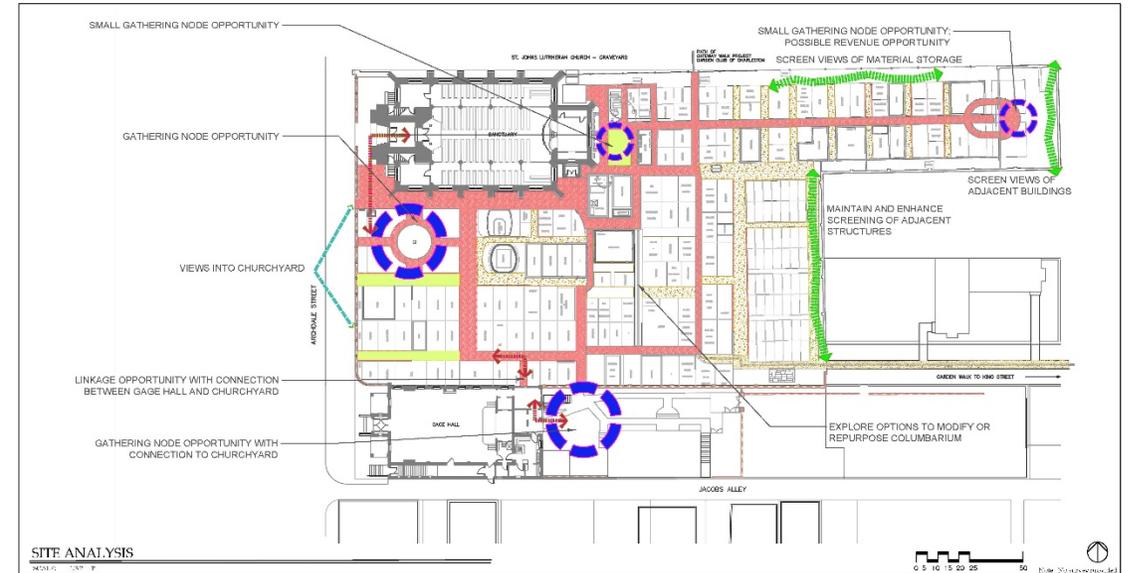
- Context
- Circulation and Spatial Organization
- Defining Character
- Views and Vistas
- Topography and Drainage
- Vegetation
- Structures
- Site Uses



Structures Inventory and Site Analysis



Appendix A
 52
 UNITARIAN CHURCH
 4 ARCHDALE ST
 CHARLESTON, SC
 AVANIFA GRAY JAY BARTON
 ELLEN P. JAY BARTON
 653 437 9939
 www.jaybarton.com
 JILL A. DESIGN
 JILL A. DESIGN
 1000 1000
 653 437 9939
 www.jaybarton.com
 JILL A. DESIGN
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 1000 1000
 653 437 9939
 www.jaybarton.com



Appendix D
 55
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 4 ARCHDALE ST
 CHARLESTON, SC
 AVANIFA GRAY JAY BARTON
 ELLEN P. JAY BARTON
 653 437 9939
 www.jaybarton.com
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Structures Inventory

Site Analysis

Opportunities and Constraints

Through the visioning process and the analysis of existing site conditions, the following opportunities and constraints were identified:

Opportunities

- Internal views
- Donation potential
- Gathering Space improvement
- Historic/cultural interpretation
- Vegetation enhancements for wildlife
- Future memorials

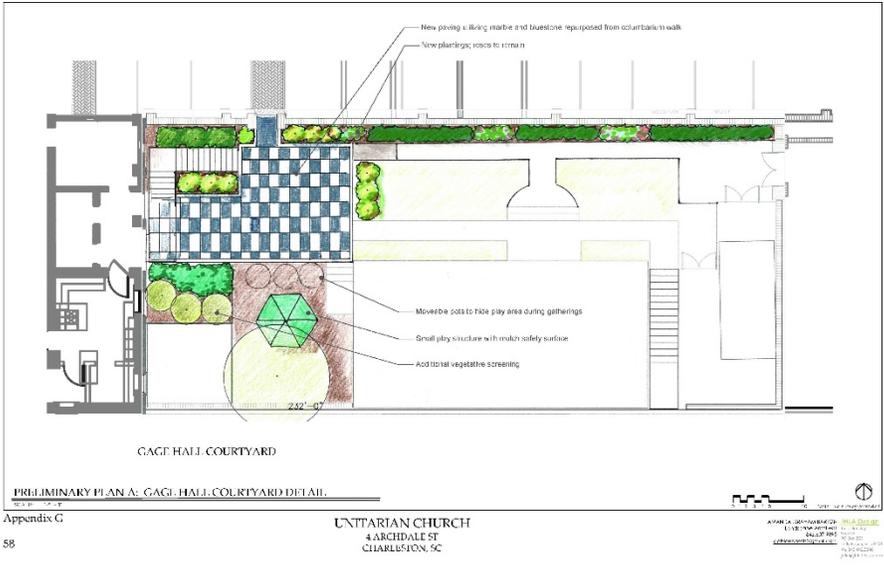
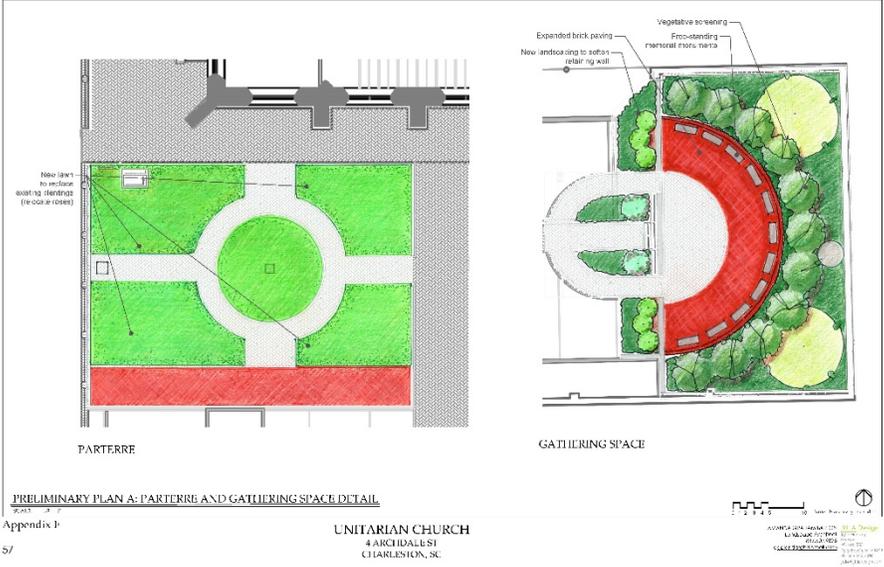
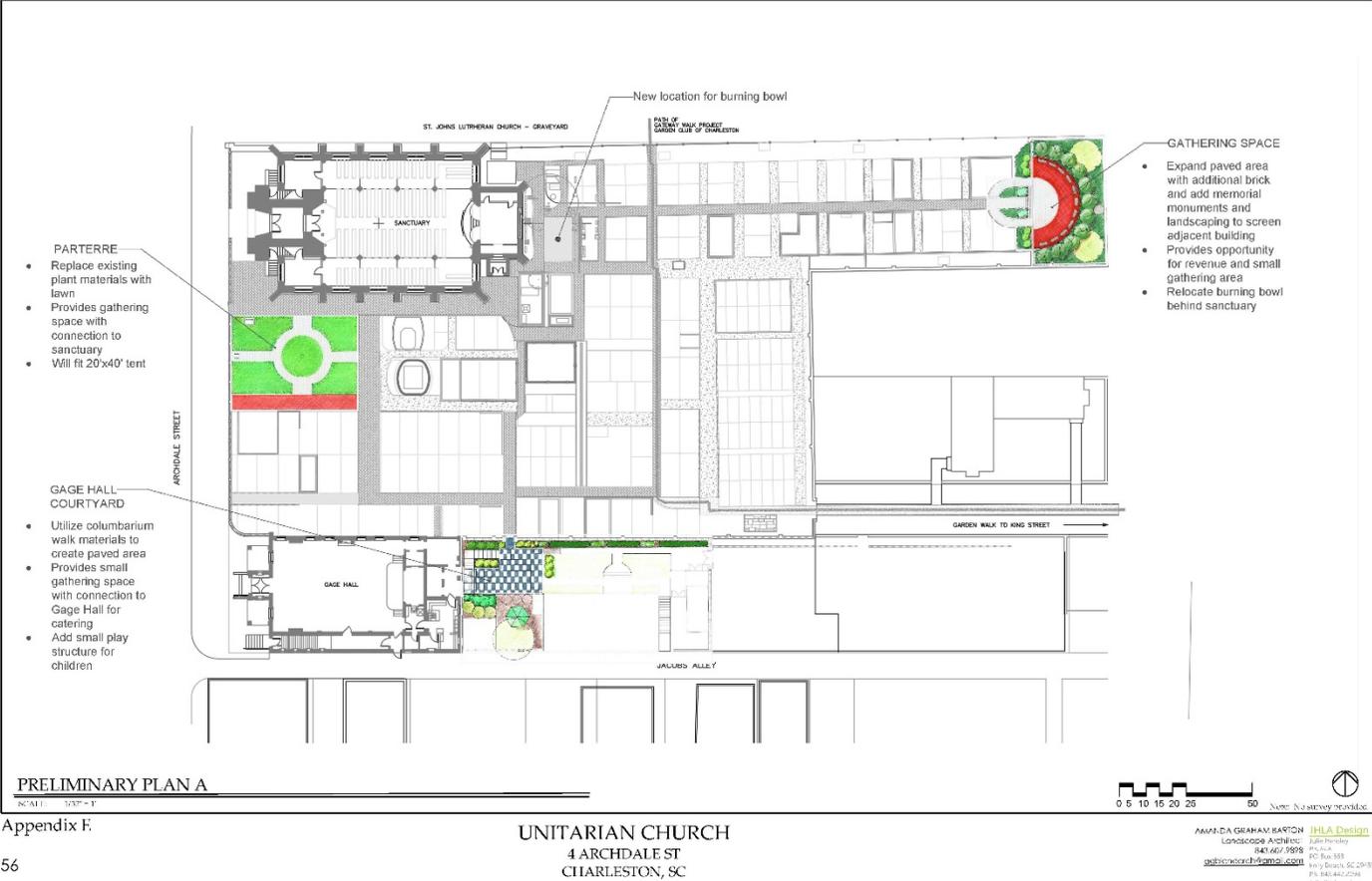


Constraints

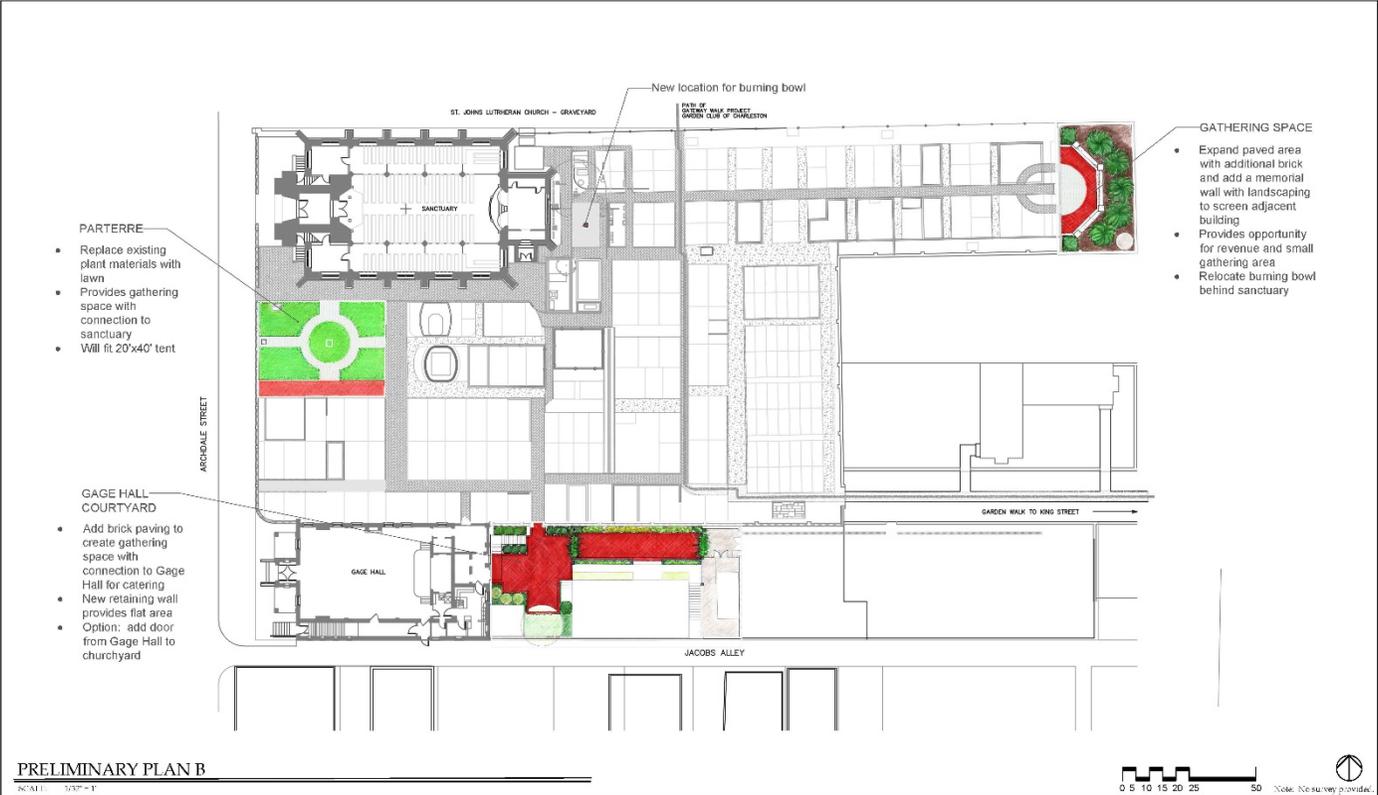
- External views
- Funding limitations
- Limited volunteer resources
- Invasive and aggressive plants
- Needed repairs and replacements
- Limited space



Preliminary Plans: Concept A



Preliminary Plans: Concept B

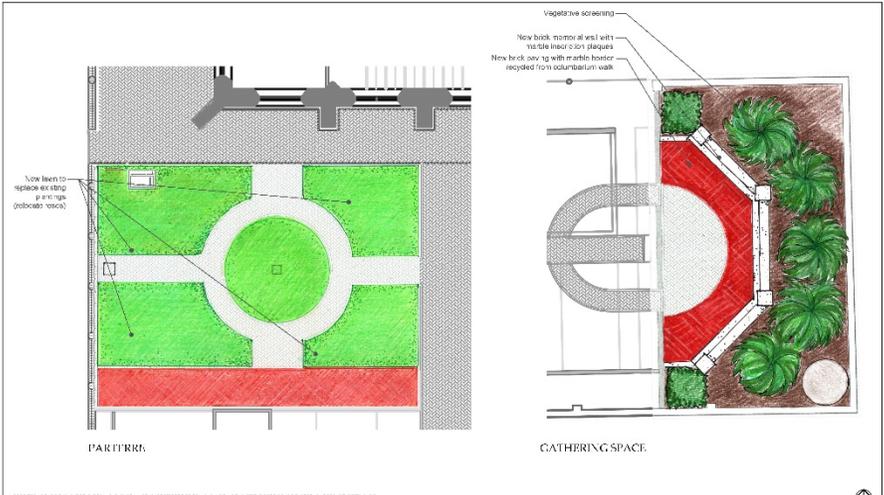


Appendix H

UNITARIAN CHURCH
4 ARCHDALE ST
CHARLESTON, SC

AMANDA GRISHAM BARTON
Landscape Architect
841.667.9898
ag@archandale.com

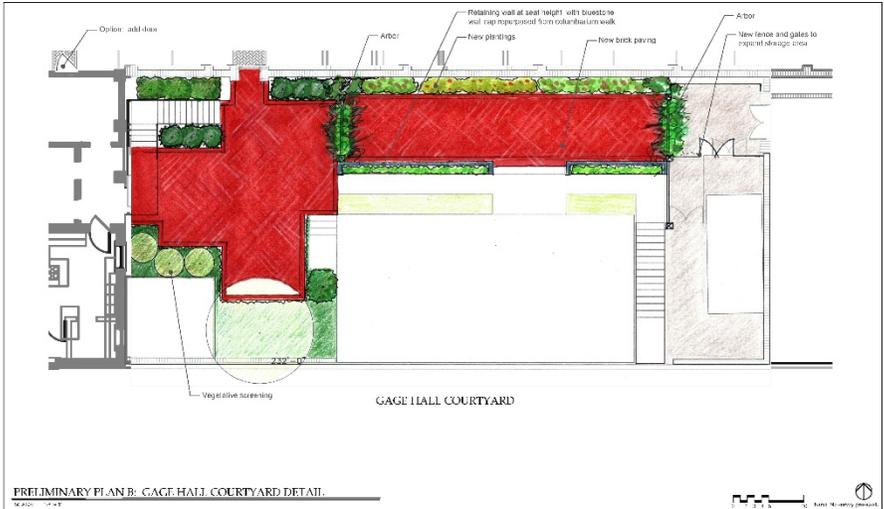
JHLA Design
John Hensley
P.L.L.C.
PO Box 185
King David, SC 29403
PH: 843.462.2294
jhl@jhladesign.com



Appendix I

UNITARIAN CHURCH
4 ARCHDALE ST
CHARLESTON, SC

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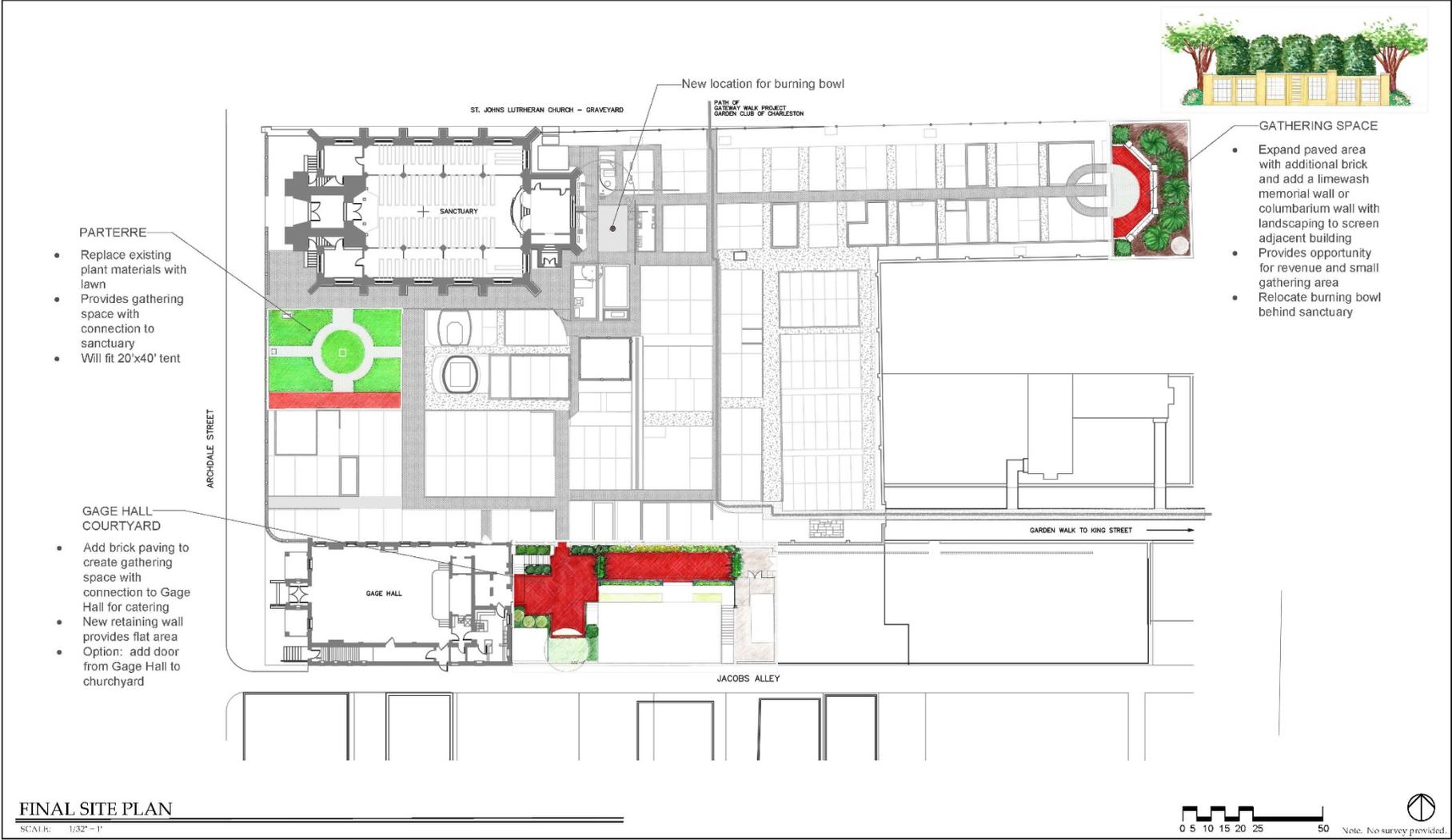


Appendix J

UNITARIAN CHURCH
4 ARCHDALE ST
CHARLESTON, SC

61

Final Site Plan



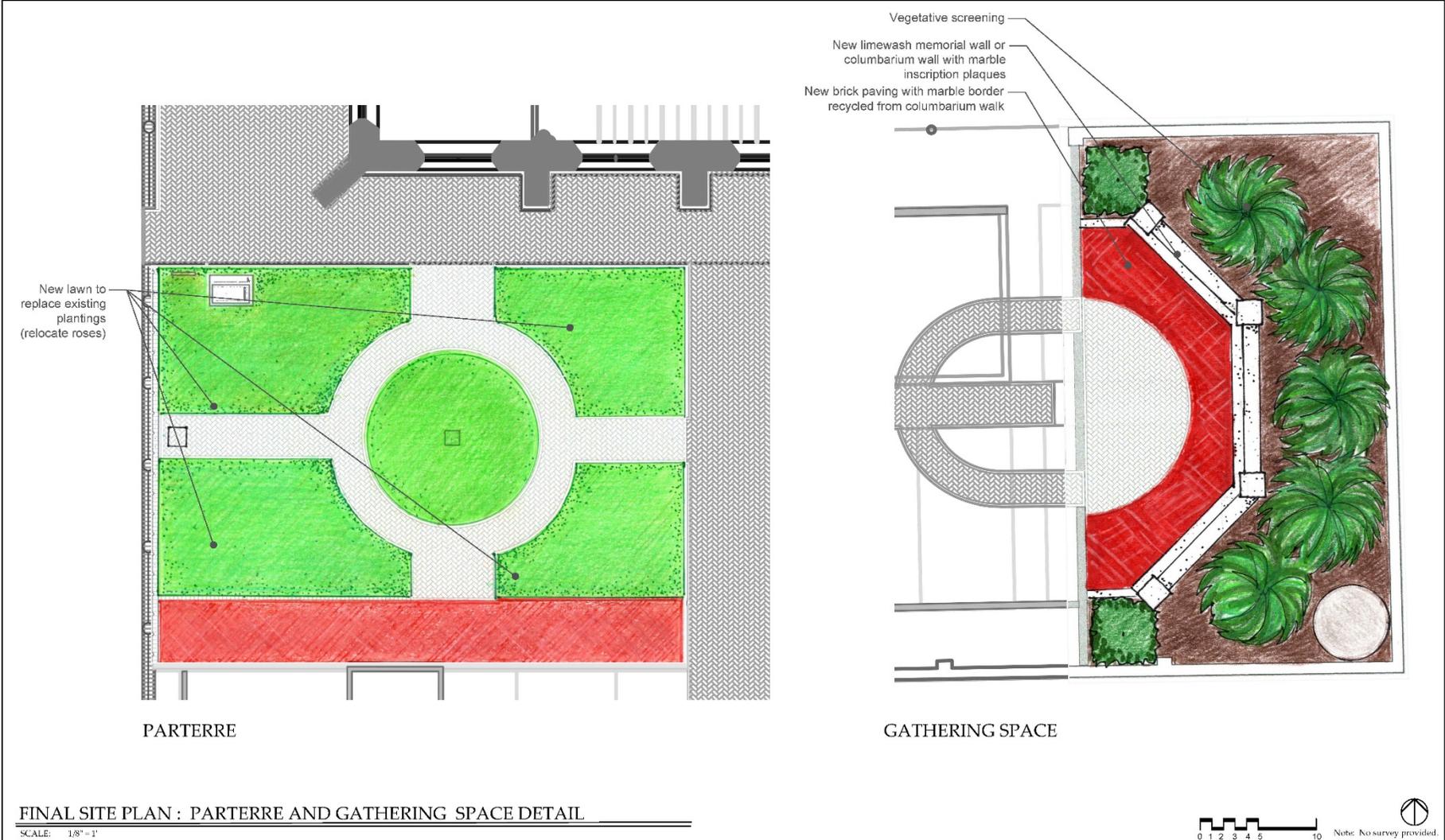
- PARTERRE**
- Replace existing plant materials with lawn
 - Provides gathering space with connection to sanctuary
 - Will fit 20'x40' tent

- GAGE HALL COURTYARD**
- Add brick paving to create gathering space with connection to Gage Hall for catering
 - New retaining wall provides flat area
 - Option: add door from Gage Hall to churchyard

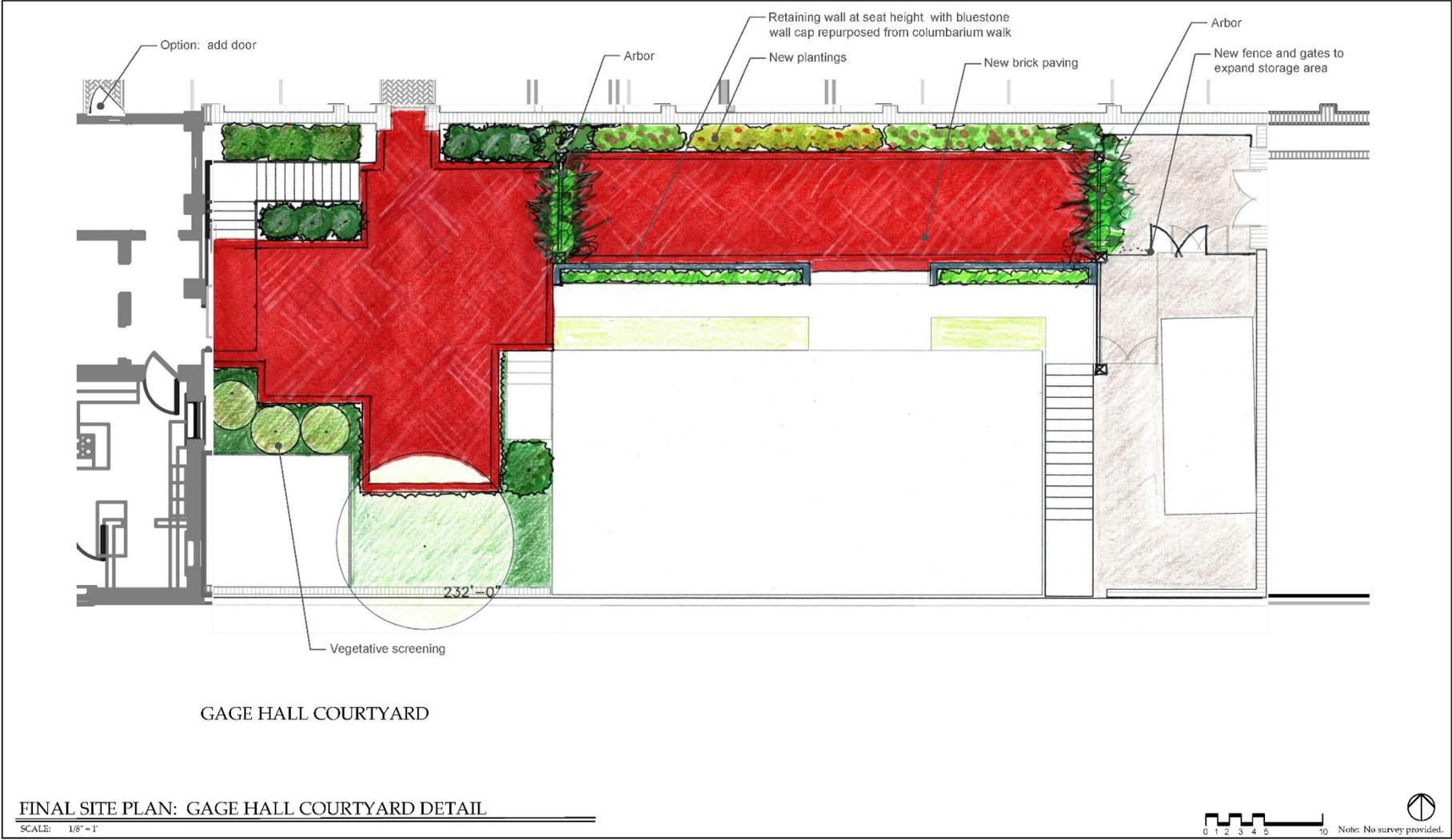
- GATHERING SPACE**
- Expand paved area with additional brick and add a limewash memorial wall or columbarium wall with landscaping to screen adjacent building
 - Provides opportunity for revenue and small gathering area
 - Relocate burning bowl behind sanctuary



Final Master Site Plan: Detail



Final Master Site Plan: Detail



Recommendations

Landscape Treatment Approach:

Preservation

Vegetation

Structures

Walks

Walls and Fences

Rehabilitation

New Construction*

Restoration

Reconstruction

*additional studies are needed



Priorities and Phasing: Landscape

Phase I

1. Remove vegetation causing damage to headstones and other structures.
2. Develop a landscape maintenance contract that includes best management practices and follows recommended landscape guidelines.
3. Develop guidelines for memorial plantings; consider developing a list of approved plants or only allowing plants to be placed temporarily.
4. Remove invasive and aggressive plants.
5. Add screening plants along the St. John's boundary.
6. Obtain an arborist report with treatment recommendations for large trees, including the magnolia.
7. Remove dead trees and limbs.

Phase II/Ongoing

1. Remove overgrown and poorly formed plants.
2. Trim and shape large shrubs and small trees, such as boxwood, azalea, and crape myrtle.
3. (Continue to) remove invasive and aggressive plants.
4. (Continue) dead tree and limb removal.

Priorities and Phasing: Structures

Phase I

1. Repair brick and stucco on Archdale St. wall. The newly lime-washed sanctuary deserves an entry wall to match.
2. Repair paving; reset loose bricks or stones and eliminate tripping hazards. This may require cutting and removing roots in some areas.

Phase II/Ongoing

1. Repair headstones and monuments.
2. Repair perimeter walls.
3. Repair or reset damaged curb walls.
4. Repair plot fencing.
5. Reset sunken, fallen, tilted or broken markers.



Proposed Site Improvements

Phase I

1. Add a donation box.
2. Add an interpretive sign highlighting the church's history.
3. Add trees/shrubs to provide screening along St. John's border.
4. Add lawn and brick path to the parterre area.
5. Expand Gathering Space to include additional paving and a memorial wall.



Phase II/Ongoing

1. Add proposed improvements to the Gage Hall courtyard.
2. Expand the storage area.



Funding Opportunities

Funding

1. Develop project-specific capital campaigns for priority projects.
2. Establish a Friends of UU Churchyard Group to assist with fundraising efforts.
3. Establish a perpetual care fund with funding from the donation box, memorials, and group rentals.
4. Identify rental opportunities and establish rental fees for various spaces.
5. Memorial plaque or columbarium niche sales.
6. Pursue grants that may be available to fund documentation and additional research.

Activities

1. Enlist additional volunteers through an updated “adopt a plot” campaign.
2. Erect an interpretive sign to highlight the history of the churchyard.
3. Organize “work days” to engage groups outside the congregation to assist with larger projects.

Management Recommendations

Maintenance Recommendations

1. Adopt Best Management Practices for landscape maintenance.
2. Develop a landscape maintenance contract to enforce the adherence to BMP's by contractors
3. Conduct annual assessments of churchyard landscape to identify projects for contract labor and volunteers.
4. Develop Request for Proposals to enlist qualified professionals for various tasks.
5. Conduct annual inspections of churchyard structures to identify the need for hired professionals and budget for repairs that are needed.

Operations Recommendations

1. Develop rules governing use of the churchyard.
2. Develop a capital planning process to identify projects for budgeting repairs and capital improvements.
3. Develop a donation policy.
4. Develop a capital campaign for fundraising according to needs established by a capital improvements plan.
5. Establish a perpetual maintenance fund.

Next Steps

1. Implement recommended guidelines and policies
2. Establish capital budgets and funding sources for priority projects
3. Phase II design development and construction documents contract + additional studies
4. City BAR review
5. Bidding
6. Permitting
7. Construction