

October 18, 2026 Wesley UMC Congregation Meeting

Kitchen Remodel Project Update



Agenda and Presentation Overview

1. Welcome!
2. Project Background
 - a. Why are We Exploring a Kitchen Remodel?
 - b. Who is Working on this Project?
 - c. What are Key Milestones Over the Next Year?
 - d. How are We Getting Input and Communicating With the Congregation?
3. What We Have Heard So Far
4. Next Steps and How You Can Be Involved
5. Questions and Feedback

Why Are We Exploring a Kitchen Remodel?



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Why Are We Exploring a Kitchen Remodel?

- **Weekly Activities:**

- Sunday tea and snacks, Compassion Ministry prepares 50 hot lunches, other meetings prepare food and coffee/tea

- **Monthly/Yearly/Ad Hoc Activities:**

- Fred Korematsu remembrance, Ozoni Lunch, Char Siu Avocado Taco Lunch, Easter Breakfast, Nikkei Matsuri Teppan Tacos and Nikkei Dogs booth, Rummage Sale, Kids Camp, San Jose Obon, Golf Tournament Lunch, Back to School BBQ, Aki Matsuri, Share our Sustenance Lunch, Charge Conference, Hanging of the Greens, New Year's Mochi, Yu-ai Kai Birthday Party
- Funerals, potluck events after church, occasional conferences

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Why Are We Exploring a Kitchen Remodel?

- Support our ministry needs and be good stewards of our facilities
- Kitchen systems are aging, need to be evaluated responsibly
- Regular meal preparation raises questions about regaining certified kitchen status
- Upgrades are needed for food and human safety, to improve workflow for those working in the kitchen, and to meet current building standards for safety and access

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Who is Working on This Project?

- Kitchen Remodel Team Members: Melissa Diaz (team lead), Dave Brown, Rob Hikido, Mark Iwagaki, Byran Longmire, John Oda, Lori Tabuchi
- Kitchen Remodel Team Purpose: Develop project scope and budget, obtain formal approvals, and, if project is approved, oversee project completion

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What Are Key Milestones Over the Next Year?

Milestone	Target Timing
Initial congregation engagement	August– Sept. 2026
Kitchen Team requested Administrative Board launch capital campaign	October 2026
Trustees approved <i>initial</i> project objectives	October 2026
Charge conference: Trustees seek approval to proceed with initial stage of project	Winter 2026

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What Are Key Milestones Over the Next Year?

Milestone	Target Timing
Team selects architect, develops preliminary plans/cost estimates	Spring/Summer 2027
Administrative Board reviews funding strategy, decides whether to recommend proceeding	Summer/Fall 2027
Charge conference to confirm continued work on the project	Summer/Fall 2027
<i>Ongoing communication and engagement with congregation</i>	<i>Throughout Phase 1</i>

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How Are We Getting Input and Communicating with the Congregation?

Activity	Timing
In-person stakeholder meeting after church	8/9 and 8/16
Online survey and coffee-hour input table	8/23 – 9/13
Trustees approve <i>initial</i> project objectives	10/6
Congregation meetings	10/18 +more
Regular reports: Trustees, Ad. Board, Council on Ministries	Beginning Sept.
Monthly newsletter articles	Beginning August

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What We Have Heard So Far

- 52 online survey responses
- 6 active kitchen users provided in-person feedback
- Feedback from Council on Ministries, Administrative Board and Board of Trustees

The congregation and active kitchen users are largely aligned.

The survey identified the big priorities, and the stakeholder meetings clarified specific design features needed to make the remodel work well in practice.

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Feedback from Outreach – *Survey Respondents*

Survey responses primarily were from active users

- 84.6% attend meals/events
- 82.7% serve food
- 73.1% help with setup/breakdown
- 71.2% prepare food
- 69.2% clean up



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Feedback from Outreach - *Alignment*

Shared priority

Compliance & safety

Equipment upgrade

Functionality

Fellowship Hall

What both groups said

Kitchen should meet code and support clean, safe food prep

Aging equipment should be replaced

Kitchen should work well for ministries, meals, and events

Bathrooms and airflow/heating-cooling matter

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Feedback from Outreach - *Differences*

Topic	Survey	Meetings - Kitchen Users
Workflow/layout	Important, but not top-ranked	Much stronger emphasis
Instant hot water	Low priority	Must-have
Dishwasher	Mid-tier	Must-have
Ventilation	Mid-tier	Must-have
Tech/audio	Low priority overall	Some support
Kitchen use policy	Not mentioned	Concern about outside-group use of kitchen

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Feedback from Outreach - *Fellowship Hall*

Survey and stakeholder input both support:

- Improved bathrooms
- Better airflow / heating-cooling

Stakeholders also mentioned:

- Improve chair storage
- Reconfigure stage for storage
- Near-term bathroom cleanliness improvements

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Feedback from Outreach – *Design Implications*

Design should include:

- Code-compliant and durable systems
- Upgraded core kitchen equipment
- Strong ventilation and cleanable surfaces
- Workflow for multiple cooks and large events



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Initial Project Objectives

- Based on feedback from congregation so far and Trustees research
- Used to engage an architect who will develop preliminary plans and cost estimates
- Will evolve as we receive information from architect and gain additional congregational input

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Initial Project Objectives

Support Wesley UMC's ministry for the next 50 years by improving kitchen safety, functionality and convenience. Our Initial Project Objectives are:

- Construct a Certified Kitchen that meets health and safety codes, including upgrading plumbing, drainage, electrical, and ventilation systems
- Replace aging, high-use equipment
- Design for improved workflow to support church ministry & events
- *If budget allows...*
 - Add targeted functional improvements to the kitchen
 - Improve Fellowship Hall bathrooms and airflow/HVAC

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Next Steps and How You Can Be Involved

- 1. Read monthly newsletter updates**
- 2. Attend Winter 2026 charge conference**
- 3. Look for congregational meeting next spring**
- 4. Attend Summer/Fall 2027 charge conference**
- 5. Consider participating in capital campaign (\$4M initial fundraising goal; approximately \$1M already designated)**

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Questions and Feedback



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