



United Methodist Church
Santa Cruz



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

United Methodist Church to create an “Oasis” in Santa Cruz

The United Methodist Church of Santa Cruz has been given the opportunity to develop a new facility at 2091 17th Avenue in the Live Oak neighborhood of Santa Cruz County. The intent of the trustees, congregation and stakeholders is to follow the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED for new construction certification program and to achieve the highest possible rating of Platinum.



2091 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Sustainability features of the new church facility using green materials and furnishings include:

- Net-zero electric costs over the course of an annual metering period
- Solar thermal and Ground source heating
- Photo-voltaic solar collectors
- No use of fossil fuels
- Improved indoor air quality
- Cistern to capture rainwater for onsite irrigation
- Storm water absorption
- Maximize day lighting to reduce electricity demand
- Recycled waste reduction
- Low flow fixtures and waterless urinals
- Living garden roof
- Provide infrastructure and site features to facilitate use of public transportation, alternative vehicles and bicycles

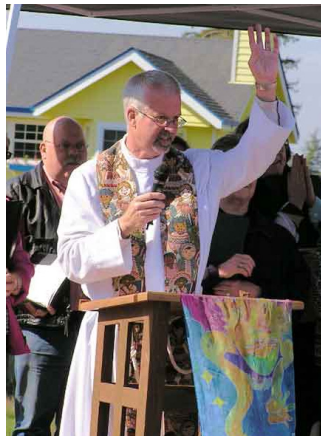
The congregation as a whole believes in a transformed life for all and they embrace the values that a green building can offer over time. Every person yearns for a safe environment to protect God's people and the planet. The United Methodist Church of Santa Cruz heard God's call to manifest these values in plain sight, using the example of their building project and incorporating environmental and sustainable habits. They will join hands and hearts with the many who want to express their deepest values together.

From a national level, the church intends to educate and share their experience with the members of the National Council of Churches to inspire others to follow. Green buildings are buildings that teach social, environmental and economic principals. Progress updates will be posted on the church's website in rich media content to invite many who would like to participate in following the project development of a high performance building.



“We have been given an opportunity few churches see. We can build ‘from the ground up.’ Because of that, we have been given the chance to craft a new witness for Jesus Christ. We have recognized that even our home structure, the physical plant of the church; will quickly convey our core values to our community.”

– Pastor Michael Love



Partnering with the Community

UMC of Santa Cruz has developed a number of relationships with different organizations in the community. They open their doors to neighbors, friends and families. 2,250sf of the first floor in the new building will be dedicated to Loving and Learning, which supports an after school program for children age 5-12.

Rotocare, a national program administered by the Capitola-Aptos Rotary Club, provides free medical clinic services with a pool of twenty volunteer doctors, two registered nurses and four medical students. They plan on occupying 300sf in the new building to cater to the uninsured and working poor of the community. In the past year, they have examined over 500 patients under this program as well as providing approximately \$6,500 in free prescriptions.

The site will also be one of two disaster recovery centers for the American Red Cross, Santa Cruz County Chapter. In the event of an emergency, the facility will have emergency equipment, back up generators and supplies to immediately handle up to 250 victims. The technology incorporated in the solar design will be set up as a secure communication center.

An additional 2,100sf will be available to the community offering a social hall and conference/meeting area.

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Memberships and Affiliations

- U.S. Green Building Council
National and NCC Chapter
- Energy Star Partner
- National Council of Churches
- California Interfaith Power and Light

Project Stakeholders

- American Red Cross, Santa Cruz County Chapter
- Rotocare