



TENDING THE VINEYARD

Stewardship of Religious Property

Educational Sessions for Strategic Property Planning

SESSION 5

Suggested Ways to Help Membership Cope with Letting Go

✓ Continually ask membership to look through the lens of the greater good

✓ Remind membership that unanimous agreement on big decisions is impossible as a way to help balance out other voices

✓ Have one-on-one meetings and small group meetings between members and leadership

✓ Encourage members to get counseling when needed and appropriate

✓ Draw on life experiences where significant, unexpected change happened

✓ If the sale of property is a possibility, be open and honest about that from the beginning

✓ Remember that close friends and stakeholders have strong feelings too, so involve them in rituals alongside membership

✓ Take an important symbol or piece of history to the new location as a reminder that letting go brings God's invitation to new life

✓ Realize that saying farewell to many years of history builds strength

✓ Encourage members to practice and be a symbol of active hope

