

May 11, 2011

GOALS FOR MAY MEETING:

- 1) Review proposed "Solar Proposal"
- 2) Discuss next steps for capital projects list
- 3) Review meeting topics list

SUMMARY OF LAST MEETING

During our last meeting we toured the campus to brainstorm in anticipation of preparing a priority list of capital improvements. These were our observations:

--Our observations focused on identifying problems instead of solutions. As a matter of process, these problems and observations should be presented to an architect to propose specific solutions and options.

--We started with the upper campus parking lot, which presents an issue of safety and access. The parking lot itself is in bad shape and the landscaping needs improvement. The current layout invites an accident between pedestrians and passing vehicles. Parking, particularly handicap parking, is insufficient.

--The entrance could be improved with restrooms and more space for check-in, greeting, fellowship and outreach activities. We recalled and generally approve of the "entrance circle" with a re-oriented entrance hall and outdoor plaza in the existing master plan.

--Administrative offices are currently on three levels of the church and not accessible to those who cannot climb stairs. We need an assessment of our personnel and space needs. Square footage is inadequate. We discussed the need for grouping: perhaps administrative downstairs, program upstairs.

--Need for additional worship, program and meeting spaces (e.g., altar guild, acolytes, committee meetings, youth and other constituencies, etc.) We spent time in the youth room and bride's room and noted how they are used for various purposes (e.g., small meetings, prayer, etc.) We need an assessment of current uses room-by-room with flexible alternatives/options.

--Parish hall now too small for large events (such as the annual fundraiser) and there is a need to have elevator access internally. Great kitchen space but need for larger and more versatile meeting/eating/reception space.

--Auxiliary buildings inefficiently and poorly built, with leaky roofs, etc. Their uses and configuration also need rethinking. We identified the specific need for

adult room space (e.g., men's conversation) and/or a fireside type room for conversation, bible study and other programs

--Preschool space problems are not so much about floor space as efficiency and the need to update. A separate meeting should be held with the pre-school board.

--Need for more plaza space potentially adjacent to the new BBQ area. We discussed whether grassy area should be removed.

--We reviewed landscaping such as the memorial trees and better (but still limited) access to the playground.

--A room dedicated to outreach and community activities remains important.

--In the church we noted the need to bring the choir area down to one level, removing the unattractive and exposed equipment and providing more storage. Lightening can be improved in the back, front and chapel. The carpet and some painting need updating. The large stone altar could be replaced with something more flexible. However, overall we agreed to preserve the attractive "modern country" style of the church.

--Overall we stressed we want a space that is ready to serve multiple constituencies that may have unpredictable needs. We value the legacy of a beautiful church, but in terms of location and general design. Development of a capital projects list should adhere to our "organic growth" theme and include parishioners from various groups/perspectives to help define an architect's plan.

--Kitchen facilities: At present they are adequate for our existing parish hall but if we anticipate increasing the space of the parish hall, with the goal of being able to feed more people then the kitchen facilities will need to be increased proportionately. Also, as we think about capital spending, the kitchen is in need of newer equipment and some key things that we don't currently have. Included in that would be a built in coffee station or two in the parish hall depending on ultimate size of the building. It would also be worthwhile thinking about smaller coffee stations as part of community or other larger meeting spaces. We could also use a commercial ice machine as well as more freezer space. The stoves could also be replaced at some point in time and the layout of the kitchen improved to facilitate serving large functions. The key point is a larger parish hall will require larger kitchen facilities.