

Presentation by Main Street UMC Building Committee

March 11, 2018 — 10:00 am

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Questions about the Change in Scope:

Why is the church changing the scope of our building project?

We have come to see that the needs of both the church and the community have changed in the years since we first envisioned a family life center on our property. In early 2016 the Church Council elected a Vision Team to research current and future needs and help us prayerfully discern God's path for Main Street. At our January Church Council meeting, the council approved this motion from the Building Committee: "Having looked at the original family life center project, the Building Committee would like to modify the scope of the project addressing the current needs as presented by the Vision Team." Those needs are ...

1. A clearly identifiable central entrance with a covered drop-off area;
2. A central gathering place where people would cross paths, connect, mingle, have some coffee or sit and talk, and build relationships;
3. A central communications hub where people can find information, sign up for events, or pick up resources;
4. Elevators and ramps that would provide greater accessibility to all of our buildings for persons with mobility issues;
5. Better security for our children by connecting our worship spaces to our education spaces with a single indoor gathering area—and limiting the number of entrances to spaces used primarily by children.

Our vision of "Fostering Vital Communities" will be better served by space that meets the needs of all generations of our church family—needs for accessibility, security, and a place where people naturally connect with each other.

Why is a "central gathering space" important?

People in our world today are hungry for connection. This God-given need is the impetus behind our vision of "Fostering Vital Communities through Love and Life-Changing Experiences." A central gathering space is one way to facilitate connection whenever people are on our campus. As people travel from worship to Sunday school, or from one activity to another, their natural pattern of travel will take them through this warm, inviting space where they will at least say hello, and might even sit down on a comfortable chair and spend some time together. In addition, this central space will increase our accessibility and security, and provide a clearly identifiable main entrance.

How will the new space make our other buildings more handicap accessible?

Basically, this central gathering space will make it possible for us to install one or more centrally located elevators—visible, and visitor-friendly. Since this space will connect the current buildings, an elevator will be able to access more than one building. Exactly what this will look like, however, will depend on the architect's plans.

How will the new building make our church more secure?

Currently we have three separate buildings with multiple entrances allowing access from multiple directions. Connecting the buildings would allow us to reduce the number of entrances. Creating a centrally located main entrance would cause people to enter through a highly visible location that would be easier to monitor.

How will this building project impact pedestrian flow on the church grounds?

The vast majority of attendees will enter the building through the central entrance, from which they can easily access all three of the current buildings. Travel from building to building will be through the central gathering area, which will be more direct and more comfortable (i.e. you will be indoors rather than outdoors). In addition, the project will include a reconfiguration of our main parking lot to increase safety and accessibility. This will greatly improve foot traffic from the parking lot to the main entrance. Pedestrian flow on other parts of the church grounds should not be impacted.

Will there be a covered drop off for the new building?

Yes. This is one of the “must haves” for this project. The drop off will be a great relief to everyone, especially our families with young children, and our older adults. In addition, the drop-off will clearly identify the central entrance to persons coming onto our campus for the first time.

Questions about the Design and Approval Process:

Has an architect been selected?

Yes. The firm of Peterson and Gordon from Winston-Salem has been hired. They have been presented with our list of needs and are currently working on some options to meet those needs.

Will there be sketches with details that the church will review prior to a church vote to move forward?

Yes. The architects will present several options that will be shared with the Building Committee and congregation.

What is the approval process?

First, the architect will create schematics (basic drawings) of the proposed project. Then, the District Board of Church Location and Building will need to approve the project and a rough estimate of the cost and the financial plan for meeting the cost. After the DBCLB gives the go ahead, a church conference will be held at which every church member is invited to vote on the project. *(You will have had plenty of time to review schematics and ask questions before this Church Conference takes place.)*

What is the time frame for starting construction?

Difficult to say. It depends on many factors including the time it takes to perfect and approve the building plans, and conduct another capital campaign.

Questions about the Building Project Itself:

Will Tanyard Lane be changed?

Yes. It will be necessary to change Tanyard Lane to accommodate the change in elevation on our campus. This change will result in an entrance road/driveway that is better incorporated into the parking lot, which will increase accessibility and increase our “curb appeal” by giving our campus a more pleasing overall aesthetic.

If the parking lot is repaved, will we have additional parking spaces?

Plans are to reconfigure the main parking lots between the buildings and Oakhurst to increase safety, increase accessibility, improve the aesthetic, and better utilize the space. Most likely this will result in additional parking spaces.

Will the gathering space be one floor or two?

It depends on the architect’s plans, but our desire is for a two-story gathering space to accommodate elevator access to the Children’s Education building.

Will the new handicap ramp still be used?

We see no reason why it will not continue to be used.

Where will the building be built?

We are waiting on the vision from the architect before we know exactly where and how big. We are asking the architect to show us options for meeting the needs described above.

Other than the building what else will be included in this project?

The central gathering space, and the total renovation of the parking lot and Tanyard Lane are the major components. Other possibilities, depending on what the architect proposes (and what we can afford), might include some additional office, classroom, or other space.

What will happen to our current flower garden between the buildings?

There are areas where the fountain may be relocated and a garden area will be developed.

What will happen to the toddler playground currently located between the buildings?

Interestingly, this playground has to be moved regardless of this building project, because of a leak in the basement of the chapel building. Plans are to move it to where the bus shelter is now.

What about a larger, more modern space for our Jubilee! Contemporary Service?

Our Jubilee! Service is growing, and there are some Sundays when the chapel is packed. The warm, intimate feel of the chapel may be a factor in that success. When Jubilee completely outgrows the chapel, we can accommodate the growth by starting a new service rather than building a new building. A possibility might be to offer a Jubilee-type service at an alternative time (for example, on Saturday night). In the meantime, we have taken steps, such as reconfiguring the seats, to create more space; and we foresee several other steps we can take, such as reconfiguring the balcony.

Questions about Financing the Project:

What is the budget for this project?

We are projecting a budget of approximately \$3 million.

How much do we have on hand in the building fund?

Our building fund is invested with The United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina. As of March 1, 2018 the balance was \$1,554, 095.39. This amount includes building fund donations and income from investments at The United Methodist Foundation.

How much more will be needed to meet the bank's requirement for a loan?

The bank will loan us money after we have one-half the cost of the project in hand, and the other one-half committed through pledges. Therefore, if the next capital campaign is as successful as “Building Up, Reaching Out,” and if the project costs roughly \$3,000,000, then with the cash we have on hand and the pledges from the next campaign, we should be able to begin construction shortly after that campaign is finalized.

It should be noted that the success of “Building Up, Reaching Out” is a huge cause for celebration—and a sign of great things to come. Experts say that in a three-year capital campaign, a healthy church can expect to raise 1 to 1.5 times their annual budget. And that’s exactly Main Street did. *Thanks be to God!*

2018 Building Committee Members

**Staff Representative*

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