



Building Proposal Questions and Answers

The renderings are being displayed to show you one concept that the Church Council supports and will be forwarded and presented in a future Voter's Assembly Meeting. We will try to answer as many questions that you may have regarding this design and publicize those questions and answers in the newsletters and through fact sheets.

How much is in the Building Fund now?

~ \$440,000

Why bother with this project?

There is an 80% rule that church and schools use in their building venture. Before a facility becomes 80% full it is found to be necessary to either add on or build an additional facility to continue growth.

Is this realistic for a church our size?

Considering the above question and our current membership rolls, it is not only feasible but necessary to building in order to continue our growth in ministry of God's word and outreach to our community.

What are the advantages of the church and school being on the same site?

Shared equipment, staffing, utilities, and all ministries would be on one site.

What are the advantages of moving the church to a new location?

We would have more space, more parking, newer facilities, and much greater visibility in the community.

Is there enough storage provided for in the new plan?

There is never enough room for storage, however, due to limited funding our size is limited to 40,000 square feet.

Could we do site development now and build later?

Possibly, the Building Committee will be looking into that.

Where would the future sanctuary go?

It is projected to be on the north side of the building toward 27th Avenue.

What will come of our beautiful stained glass windows? Can we take them with us?

Most definitely, they will come along.

What about our pipe organ?

At this time, an electronic organ is being considered until the sanctuary is built and the pipe organ can go back into it.

How will this project enhance our outreach to the community?

Location - location - location

What is the timeline?

To be completed by August 2009 in order to celebrate our 100th anniversary.

Is this undertaking a "done deal"? Has the final decision been made?

Not until the congregation votes at the Voters Assembly Meeting and funding is within sight.

What kind of floor surface will the multipurpose room have? Will chairs hurt the floor?

SCM Engineering has indicated that there is a special surface that's being used by school districts which would be installed. Neither chairs or folding bleachers can damage it.

What is the total cost?

~\$4,300,000, which includes a contingency fee that may be used for furnishings. Details of the breakdown of affordability will be given at the Voters Assembly Meeting.

Are we keeping enough staff at school to support this?

This is to be determined by School Board, Church Council and Voters Assembly.

Are we going to be turned off by worshiping in a multipurpose room?

The early church did not have any church buildings for the first 300 years of its existence. Special care will be given to making the Multi-Purpose area as conducive to our worship as possible.

Can the Altar be closed off when the gymnasium is being used?

Yes and it will be.

Why does the rendering show half of the property undeveloped?

Reconsidering the necessary amount of property and by working in concert with the school districts, we have found that 26 acres of property is not necessary. Therefore, the Building Committee is looking at different ways to use the property as an income source.

How do you plan on setting up and removing the chairs each Sunday?

A staffed person and/or volunteers.

Why are the classrooms so small? Why can't they be larger?

The sizes were a) determined to be adequate by the engineer who designs schools in our area, and b) we are limited to 40,000 square feet because of cost.

Is this the final drawing?

No - This is only a concept rendering, not a blue print. We need to be flexible in our planning.

Who is on the building committee?

Richard Wyer, Carol Clark, Bob Schultheiss, Jim Bertsch, Dan Schuldheisz, Roger Lahti, Bruce Schroer, Glenn Russcher, Tom & Sharon Halazon, Pastor Bertermann, Brian Rafferty, Stu Murphy and Wayne Engel.

Is it possible to see a school/church building comparable to what is planned at Bethlehem?

We will ask the principal at Maya Angeleou in Pasco if tours could be conducted there. This school was designed by the same engineering firm (SCM Engineering) as our proposed design. Flooring, classroom size, heights of ceilings, etc, are on the same scale as our proposed concept rendering.

From the Bethlehem Lutheran Building Committee
May 11, 2005

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