

Update on “A Church Alive”

“A Church Alive!” is building momentum as we move forward with planning for our facility re-modeling and expansion. During several meetings over the past few months, BLDD architects, with involvement from the Facility Planning Leadership Team (FPLT) and St. John’s staff, developed a master plan that addresses our four facility priority needs. These priorities include children’s ministries, youth ministries (Junior and Senior High), adult education and young adult ministries, and improved administrative office space. On May 15th and 18th the congregation was invited to attend meetings to see the conceptual drawings and hear more about the proposed possibilities for our facility.

We also engaged Kairos and Associates, a consulting firm with expertise in organizing capital appeals, to facilitate a resource assessment of our proposed facility update to help gauge enthusiasm and potential financial support for the project. Our consultant from Kairos, Pr. David Misenheimer, conducted individual interviews and focus groups with congregation members during mid-May to gather input and listen to their concerns. Members who participated in the meetings were given a Case Statement, outlining our plan for “A Church Alive!” which included more details on a proposed phased project with cost estimates. This Case Statement and the consultant’s assessment can be found on our web site for all members to review.

David summarized his findings and presented a report to the FPLT and St. John’s Leadership Team on May 28th. The group reviewed David Misenheimer’s final report and the Congregation Council recommended a congregational meeting on June 8th to continue working with Kairos Associates and conduct a Capital Campaign. A vote was taken at the meeting and passed. Two additional Facility Planning Information Meetings are scheduled later in June to continue to provide input and receive feedback from members. The next steps will involve the Capital Campaign Committee working with David Misenheimer to prepare for an annual Stewardship Campaign to run parallel to the Capital Campaign in the fall. “A Church Alive!” is the result of ongoing planning and discussion over the past several years, beginning in 2005 when our Church Council first identified growth goals for St. John’s. This project is a journey—one that involves open discussion, feedback, education, collaboration, and trust. We will continue to keep you involved in the process and incorporate your feedback into the overall plans for our future facility as it relates to our priorities, and the needs of the congregation. But it’s also important that we continue to move forward, and stay focused and confident in our overall mission, which is to . . . *invite and connect people to God and one another through Christ’s love.*

“A Church Alive!” will provide improved space to support our current ministries, and will also expand the capacity for an even wider variety of opportunities for ministry through worship, learning, and hospitality.

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Round III

A Church Alive! Facility Planning Project as of June 12, 2008

The Facility Planning Leadership Team (FPLT) continues to be committed to keeping you informed and involved throughout the entire process of our Facility Planning project. Several more questions were submitted to the Q&A boxes and have surfaced during the resource assessment meetings. Here’s our response to the most recent questions. (Previous Q&A responses are available on the St. John’s web site www.stjohnsbloomington.org. Just click on [Facility Planning](#).)

1. CAN WE RENAME SOME OF THE AREAS OF OUR FACILITY TO MAKE THEM MORE “USER-FRIENDLY?”

This will definitely be discussed prior to the placement of signage and directional instructions. It’s a good observation to note that many people, including new members and visitors, may not understand our phrases used to describe facilities and programs. For instance: Narthex, Nave, or PLC; Joy Zone, Thrive or CHAOS. Our goal is to make our building as “user friendly” as possible.

2. ARE WE SURE THAT WE’RE NOT JUST PUTTING A BAND-AID ON AN OLD BUILDING THAT HAS BIGGER PROBLEMS THAT CAN’T BE FIXED?

We’ve given this careful consideration when evaluating the need to provide a facility for St. John’s that meets our growing ministry needs. While new is nice, it’s not always better. We have many advantages to the location we currently occupy, and even our building has many unique and positive features that still make it a viable facility to meet our current and foreseeable future needs at St. John’s. We realize our current facility is in need of maintenance and consider this a priority in our building update project. We believe we can make our building “alive and new” again with the plans our architects have proposed. Based on input we received during the resource assessment, we’ve investigated demolition costs and have asked our architects to provide new construction costs for comparison.

3. How many members do we currently have at St. John's?

Our 2007 ELCA report acknowledged we had 2547 baptized and confirmed members.

4. Why isn't the overhang covered outside of the PLC?

At the time when the PLC was built, it was a cost reduction measure to exclude the planned overhang. We are considering an overhang structure in the planning of our facility update.

5. What are the plans for the Welcome Centers? Has there been any discussion in relocating them to be more visible? Welcome Center storage has become a dumping ground for all organizations. What is the purpose?

Our Welcome Centers play an important role in providing a central and visible location to access program information and educational materials at St. John's. Their intent is to support worship services, and to provide a place where visitors can receive a warm welcome and get answers to any questions they might have. Because of their importance to our ministry, there will be careful consideration to the placement of the Welcome Centers in the updated facility. Organization, storage of materials, and training of volunteer staff will also be important in order to fulfill the purpose of the Welcome Centers.

6. Can I pledge over a number of years towards the capital campaign for our facility update project?

Yes, we are suggesting a commitment over a three-year period, but members can pledge over a longer period if they choose, or donate a one-time gift. It's important to make a pledge selection that works best for you.

7. Does the roof in the Sanctuary leak, and if so, are there plans to fix this?

There are no known leaks in the Sanctuary roof. Occasionally unique atmospheric conditions result in some condensation. The "stains" on the interior ceiling roof have been there for a number of years and are not related to recent leaks.

8. How many Sunday School/Joy Zone classrooms do we have, and how many are we planning for?

Currently two-year-olds through 5th graders use 15 rooms for Sunday School. The major emphasis for these classrooms is to brighten and remodel them. The Master Plan recommends the number of rooms will increase to 22. In addition to an increase in rooms, the classroom sizes will provide for flexibility in the number of students accommodated in each classroom.

9. Do we have plans for a gym in our updated facility?

Phase 2 in the Master Plan includes an activity center of about 4800 sq. ft. which is approximately the size of our current Parish Life Center (PLC) or twice the size of our Fellowship Hall (FH). This will allow for considerable additional multipurpose space for a variety of activities for everyone, not necessarily just for our youth. Ongoing discussions continue to occur with our youth program staff to ensure we meet their needs based on plans for current and future youth programs.

10. Does our growth justify a remodel and expansion?

Growth can be quantified in many ways. Our worship attendance has ranged from stable to a slight 1% increase annually since 1966. Some of our individual programs, such as Dinner Time on Wednesday evenings, have doubled in participation over the past year. In terms of the quality and depth of our programs, we have much room to grow. A remodeled and expanded facility will allow us to offer engaging worship space and expanded programs for our children and adults, encouraging us all to grow deeper in our faith.

11. When will the Capital Campaign be completed?

The pledge commitment will be completed in 2008. Most pledges will be received over 3 years. The results of the campaign will help us determine the magnitude and scope to be accomplished during the building remodel and expansion. We anticipate the recommendation will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting in January 2009.

12. How can we determine our commitment if we haven't seen the finalized Master Plan?

A preliminary proposal of the Master Plan was presented to the congregation during open forums and interviews in May and June. As the FPLT continues to hear your feedback and work with BLDD to refine the plan, opportunities will be made available to share final plans with the congregation. It's our intent to continually share updates so you'll be in a position to make an informed decision about your commitment. Members can stay informed throughout the process by taking advantage of the many ways facility planning information is shared—through open forums, *The Eagle*, the *Weekly News*, and St. John's web site, www.stjohnsbloomington.org.

QUESTIONS CAN ALSO BE DIRECTED TO ANY ONE OF THE FPLT MEMBERS INCLUDING:

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YOU MAY ALSO CONTACT CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS WITH QUESTIONS.

