

Long Range Planning Meeting Notes  
Thursday, March 17, 2011

I forgot to take a list of who was there and who was absent.

We started with some conversation about the 1999 notes from our architects' interviews with staff and others prior to the *Raise the Roof* campaign. (That report has been posted to our Committee page on the web site.)

In 1999 we noted the trends that would predict our outgrowth of the worship space. We chose to add a few feet to the chancel rather than do anything more extensive.

We added a new Parish Hall, Kitchen, bathrooms, youth rooms, expanded choir and music department, and administrative space. In 1999 we said we probably had enough room for the immediate future, but we moved everyone from K and below downstairs to a new nursery.

Some things that we unaddressed were needs in the bookstore, a hope for an outreach resource office, a chapel, and hot water in the sacristy.

We are now posting interview notes from our recent interviews:  
Youth / Children / Nursery / Support Staff / Adult Education / Music / and MANY Outreach ministries.

Some comments on the reports that were printed by our meeting time:  
A need cited by everyone – storage, storage, storage  
What about parking? If we add seats to the Nave, it does nothing to address our parking shortage. Will we be able to use the County Parking Deck? **Jeremy Pate** will look into it.

We discussed creating a postcard with a color coded map of available parking in the neighborhood. **Terri Chadick, Jeremy Pate, and Bret Park** will work with Google Maps to create a resource that we could give to a graphic artist (Gary Weidner, Lee Pressell?) to refine.

**Jeremy** will look into the Arvest lot which is chained on Sunday. Could we work out an arrangement to use it and lock it back?

We are going to get some signs to reclaim Dead Swanky places from the Baptists who often park there.

Some other needs that popped up from the surveys:

We need wireless upstairs. **Jeremy Pate** will see if the new broadband on the square will reach us. Lowell will advertise for laptops. Our Tutoring program would be enhanced by giving the children access to computer resources.

We need more shared program space. Especially flexible rooms for 20 to 60 people.

Some people would like for us to “warm up” the Parish Hall – maybe with new cloth-seated stackable chairs.

We may build a storage building between the kitchen/office wall and the Estes Law firm.

One interview suggestion asked for chairs to replace the front two pews in the church. Would make seating for wheelchairs more practical and add more flexibility to the space.

We would like to invite the congregation to submit ideas about worship space. What have you seen in other churches that you liked?

We talked about making it clearer how a visitor enters the church and how a visitor finds the bathroom.

Bret Park recalled his feeling about the process in 1999. He wants us to consider not doing what we did then. In 1999, we had a good analysis of our needs, Bret said. But we didn't carry the analysis further into a whole vision – more like a Master Plan. Too soon we let the hired hands, the “professional architects” have the studies, and once they produced some drawings it seemed like the wave collapsed and our vision was constricted to within the scope of their drawings. He urged us to keep pushing the questions, to continue to analyze our agenda further, so that the design meet our full needs, not just our immediate needs.

**Lowell** was asked to approach the newspaper to see if there was any possibility that they might entertain moving. Lowell has since had a meeting, and there is no foreseeable option for the paper relocating.

We'll put something in the E-News/Newsletter inviting people to suggest what we could do better. Maybe urge people to take pictures of things they like when they visit other churches.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 21 at noon.