

Fellowship Hall Update June 7, 2022

In Luke 14: 28, Jesus tells us to consider the cost of being a disciple. He uses a metaphor about building a tower, and he says,

“For which of you intending to build a tower, sits not down first and counts the cost, whether he have sufficient means to finish it off.”

As church members, we follow that direction and we consider the cost of a significant act of discipleship to build a new Fellowship Hall. It's not just about money but building to further our ministry.

So tonight, I want to take a few minutes to update you about our Fellowship Hall project so we can consider it further. But, first, I need to digress to explain how we are proceeding.

According to the United Methodist Church Book of Discipleship, there is a process. In short form, it goes:

We form a study committee to analyze and report on the needs of the church and community, its projected potential membership, its attendance growth; its church programs and ministry; and develop an accessibility plan.

That is done. Our Study Committee, headed by Tom Blackstock with the other committee members: Carole Guffey, John Holbrook, John Leffler, and Paula Market, made that

report. We can provide a copy of the information for our members.

With the study done, we received the written consent and approval of the District Superintendent and our Pastor, and the report was sent to the District Board of Church, Location and Building. That was followed by receiving a Charge to our Administrative Council to elect and set up a Building committee.

I was asked to serve on the Building Committee. As Chair, my committee and I are to Estimate facilities needed; Determine costs; Develop preliminary plans; Ensure accessibility; Estimate Construction Costs; Develop strategies for funding, and Submit a report of our findings. We are at this step now.

The building committee is me, John Lefler, John Holbrook, Paula Markert, Carole Guffey, Gary Roberts, and Tom Blackstock. The committee is looking to build a new Fellowship Hall.

The Study committee came up with some excellent points regarding why we should build new and not renovate:

Refurbishing would not take care of our needs now. Why? We need more space. We have 832 square feet now for multi purpose use. We project 1148 square feet in a new build.

We need a more extensive space to better serve an overflow from the sanctuary at capacity for worship services.

We need an upgraded audio-visual system;

We need more area to allow more to attend a fellowship coffee period after services

We need more area to better suit a dining area for covered dish dining with ample room for dishes and service and to provide comfortable chairs and tables.

We need two bathrooms.

We need an office to accommodate a Pastor's office that may be shared with those who serve as Sunday collection counters.

We need a separate meeting ready conference room that seats 12-16 people which does not require set up or take down. This better suits meetings, Bible study, and counseling.

The cost-efficient approach is to construct a new building to meet these requirements and design it to complement our historic sanctuary.

The study committee worked with Architect Ron Geyer of Good City Architects. He provided the committee with some preliminary designs reflecting where we are, a possible renovation drawing, and a potentially whole new floor plan.

Our Architect gave preliminary budget costs of rebuilding at \$814,000. His initial budget for a new build runs at \$946,000.

Now that is just preliminary as of September 2021. So we know that inflation and supply chain concerns will probably increase the cost.

To build a new, we are having a survey done of the property and know exactly where our boundary lines are so we may better use the land we have. Associate Land Surveyors and planners are doing the survey. We expect that to be done before the end of July.

The plan is to continue using Ron Geyer as our Architect for design purposes. So we have authorized an expense of \$26,500 for the design portion.

Once the design is complete, there will be a congregational meeting to vote on the project. Only upon approval by the congregation will the plan move forward with construction designs and planning.

Before this congregational meeting, there will be opportunities to share design work with anyone in the church with an interest.

Even when we get congregational approval, we must go through more reviews as required by the United Methodist Church Book of Discipline. The District Board of Church Location and Building will review what we approve. It's more complicated than that, but I won't take your time with all the future procedures about final approval.

So, we have studied our needs and gotten the go-ahead to make a specific design. Next, the building committee will work with our Architect to make its report and present a new Fellowship Hall that enhances our ministry at a cost we can afford. Then we will vote on it.

Meanwhile, we would like building ideas you might have and email them for presentation to the committee.

For your review is a rendering of our existing floor plan, a possible renovated floor plan and a possible new floor plan drawn by our Architect Ron Geyer at Good City Architects for preliminary informational and discussion purposes only.

Our Architect also provided a preliminary Budget Summary that is also posted for preliminary informational and discussion purposes only.

Finally, we have attached a model drawing of a potential Fellowship Hall based on a possible new floor plan for preliminary informational and discussion purposes only.

If you have ideas or comments, please send them to scotlaw@aol.com. Your ideas will be shared with the Building Committee.

Blessings.

~ Scott Walter, Chair Building Committee.

