

## FAQ's- Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the LAUMC Facilities Plan



- **Was an architect consulted during the Facilities Plan development?** The Ad Hoc group did not have an architect.
- **Why isn't a whole project finished in one phase – especially the pre-school then patio gathering area?** Phasing will produce the least disruption to the flow of current activities. It will also allow our fundraising to be directly related to the campus renewal phase that is in progress. This will prevent financial over commitment that could impact the budget.
- **Are there any cost estimates for phase 1?** It was not part of the Ad Hoc Committee's charge nor did they have the resources to obtain meaningful cost figures. They did have sound estimates from an earlier Fellowship Hall remodel plan which provided a reference point.
- **How much does each phase cost?** The committee used the expertise of its members to broadly estimate costs per square foot. Quoting those costs might be misleading, however. The committee conducted its work guided by the primary goals listed in the report, mindful of being good stewards of limited resources.
- **Are all the sewer and water lines planned to be new to city connections?** This is a detail for the building committee to investigate. New connections might not be needed if the condition and capacity of the current sewer lines are viable.
- **Why isn't the new parking area done during the first phase (i.e. West parking lot)?** The committee left the paving of the West parking lot to future decisions about the most effective use of this space. Further, construction may degrade the lot surface, so the development and refurbishment is best left until later in the process. The Church Council has specifically included consideration of the West parking lot in the proposed directions to the building committee.
- **What about the campus façade?** In staging improvements so as to avoid duplications, the façade will be improved as we move through the various renovations.
- **Where is the fellowship gathering space?** Fellowship space (places to gather indoors or outdoors for social connections) has been identified as; the "porch," the Lounge, the patio west of the Lounge, the open area behind the Lounge (big yard) and potentially Fellowship Hall and its west patio (depending on the location of the early service.)

- **How are outdoor spaces to be utilized?** By relocating the “big yard” to the west of the Preschool, not only is that space repurposed for fellowship activities, the patio, previously used for fellowship prior to the effort to build a new education building, will be again available for fellowship activities.
- **Why are we developing a large kitchen near the Lounge rather than refurbishing the Fellowship Hall kitchen?** Both kitchens on our campus are in need of renovation. Because building codes require upgrading the Fellowship Hall kitchen to meet the current handicapped accessibility requirements, the attendant costs (bathrooms, stage access, etc.) make this a high cost endeavor with little resources left for other critical campus improvements. The committee sought to meet our primary goals of space availability on the ground level as well as lower cost by developing a kitchen in a location regularly used by a broad cross section of the congregation.
- **Can the design for the newly-enlarged kitchen near the Lounge be placed closer to eating areas?** The renditions the committee provided were designed to provide a visual concept of the improvement. The future work of the architect will assist in the most viable and functional layout.
- **How many people can eat at tables in the Lounge?** The Lounge can accommodate a medium size gathering. Fellowship Hall will still be the best choice for large gatherings. Further, food can be prepared in the new central kitchen, then catered to another space.
- **Why isn't a passenger lift installed prior to the Lounge remodel?** We recognize the significant accessibility challenges of our present campus. How to accommodate people with limited mobility has to be incorporated into the plan. A lift is a viable option, but it does not move a significant number of people in a timely manner.
- **What will provide interim space during the Lounge/kitchen construction?** One of the details assigned to the building committee will be providing for facility space program during construction.
- **What are the regulations and costs for the tunnel? Is it feasible and what purpose does it serve?** The development of a tunnel was incorporated to provide better access to 1,300 square feet of usable floor space (currently “the Pit”), which could be accomplished by “trenching.” One of the first tasks of the building committee will be to explore the feasibility of a tunnel linking the Pit to the west patio of Fellowship Hall.
- **What does “upgrade Fellowship Hall” mean?** The upgrades referred to in the report include ceiling and floor repair, modest kitchen modifications to allow for use (in coordination with Lounge kitchen), the potential addition of a closet for the early service band, repair of the stairwell floor, addition of a unisex handicapped bathroom, painting the walls and other similar items.
- **Will we be able to rent out Fellowship Hall after the upgrade?** Yes. With the above listed improvements the hall should be a welcoming and functional space.
- **Does the Facilities Plan consider the need to expand the pre-school?** By opening up the present administration building to multiple classrooms, there is space for expansion of ground level children and adult classrooms and facilities. These are immediately adjacent to the preschool and playgrounds, but may not have enough bathrooms if the preschool expands. Also, with the relocation of the nursery to the Lounge building, an additional room will be available within the Preschool Building that could be used for expansion. The allocation of this space will depend upon future ministry decisions.
- **What are the rules governing upgrades to the Chapel building?** No structural changes would be made to the Chapel building. Furnishings (risers in choir room) would be removed and partitions added within structurally supported space. Electrical wiring would need to be to code.

- **What happens to the stained glass windows in the Chapel?** There is no plan to change the stained glass in the present chapel.
- **Why are the Pastors' offices being moved? What happens if we have a handicapped pastor or staff? Does this allow for staff expansion?** In order to make more accessible ground level space available for children and adults, the committee recommended using the former "Journeyland" space for pastoral staff. This provides a central place for pastoral staff above the relocated reception area, office staff and workroom space. A conference and counseling space has been created on the main level allowing for pastors to meet congregants in an accessible area and appropriate visibility. The second floor office area can also provide more than the three spaces presently "pictured," which would be considered during the design phase. The addition of a "cooperative" staff meeting place is also desirable. Should we employ someone who is handicapped, we have identified ground level spaces which could accommodate an additional office.
- **Where are the office staff and workroom equipment located?** The former Chapel narthex, storage area and chapel room (on the main level) provide equivalent space to the old office.
- **The Library is prime space. Is that the best use? Should we consider moving it and using the space for Pastors' offices?** There are clearly options for the location of the Library and its function: library, meeting room, office. This would be among the details to be decided during phase II.
- **If the first service moved to Fellowship Hall, is a dedicated room for choir rehearsal necessary for 30 minutes on Sunday?** The redesign of the Choir room into a multi-use space offers a variety of configurations and usages. It will certainly serve as rehearsal space and music storage. It can also host classes, group meetings (replacing the former chapel room), as well as provide, with vaulted ceilings, a space for small worship experiences.
- **How much seating capacity is reduced by removing the back 3 pews of the Sanctuary?** Fifty spaces.
- **How would we pay for all the campus improvements?** The church has \$150,000 that remains in the original Building Fund. We also have \$100,000 from the sale of a parsonage several years ago. (We still maintain the Claremore property.) While this could get the improvements started, we would also need to conduct a capital campaign. While we could consider construction loans (supported by pledges), we are not at present considering long-term debt. A team will be assigned to explore grants and other funding sources.