Update: Summary of Comments from Six B.O.L.D. S.T.E.P.S Forums

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Thank you to all who attended one or more of the recently-held B.O.L.D S.T.E.P.S informational forums. Additional thanks to those who shared thoughts either at one of the forums or in writing on the yellow Response Sheets. Voicing your blessings and concerns for the building project is very helpful to the end result. The goal of the involved committees is to move forward together as we grow in love for Jesus. What the future holds for our ministry is unknown. What we do know is that God has a plan and that our vision is the same as his – to share Jesus with more and more people. God grant us success in moving forward together in unity.

A total of **76** members (25% of St John’s total 301 communicant members) attended the informational presentations. Of that group, the total number of member responses sheets returned was **24**, or 32% of the attendees.

**79%** of those responding stated they were either **very willing** or **willing** to support the proposed concept building project. About **0%** were **not willing** to support the project.

If you are interested in what thoughts were shared at the forums you didn’t attend, read on. We’ve organized that information (including comments from the response sheets) under several bold headings.

**Exterior of Building, Parking Lots, Recreational Area.** Gas, water and sewer are installed to the property. The entire building is one level and does not contain any flat roof sections. The non-metal roof pitch allows for the span size of roof trusses and insulation purposes as well as snow to come off easier. The inside of the church would not be as tall. The dormers on the front of the church would allow for natural light to enter. Possibly some of the small church windows could be redesigned to create taller windows. It was indicated the steeple was too small and wished to have a cross on the top (possibly from our current church). Also suggested, the base of the steeple could be expanded in height to place stain glass in each side to be lit at night. The carport width (entry by the narthex) allows for two cars to be side by side. The current church bell could be placed under the carport canopy and possibly made operational. The two parking lots with a connecting roadway at the rear of the lot is considered a fire safety measure that would grant access to the back of the school building with a fire truck. The number of handicap parking spaces will be determined by law requirements. The pond is mandated by law for water run-off from the roofs and the amount of asphalt installed. Placement of the pond may be altered. There is sufficient room to position soccer and baseball fields to the west side of the church/school. Children’s playground areas (fenced in) could be located behind the school and potential gym location..

**Capacity and Interior of the Church.** The church proper can seat 235 people in the angled arrangement of chairs and pews with additional seating of 25 for choir members in the back-right corner on a raised platform. Chairs in the front and back rows can be removed for additional space when needed during special events. At this time assume the pews will be padded. The Altar Guild Room contains sufficient storage for banners, etc. The ramp going to the altar area is mandated by law based on occupancy. Preferable to have a free-standing altar in order for Pastor to see the congregation. The organ console is located on the main floor in front of the choir while the organ pipes are situated in the area above the entrance into the church proper. It is theologically significant that the baptismal font will be located at the back of church just inside the entrance doors. As you enter God’s house and pass the baptismal font, you are reminded that you also entered God’s Church through baptism. It is intended that some of the current stained glass will be used either as part of the new windows or in other interior locations. Suggested that the stained glass be in the upper portion and clear glass in the lower portion of the outside windows. Another theological implication: clear glass allows us to look out to see the mission field.

**Narthex, Fireside Room, Commons Area, Patio.**  Off the Narthex area is a parent room for small children with potential to stream the church service into that room; and another area for serving coffee and treats. The Narthex would allow for ample overflow seating during larger weddings, funerals, etc. The Fireside Room (yes, there would be a fireplace) could also be classified as the “Heritage” room. Artifacts from the current church (pictures, old documents, etc.) that can be salvaged but not placed in any other location could be included in this room, which will accommodate 30 people for any sort of meeting or gathering. Suggested to take the original cornerstones from the current buildings. Between the Narthex and Commons area is a hallway with coat racks, women’s and men’s bathrooms, a mechanical room, room for ushers/janitor, and a family bathroom where a father can take his daughter or a mother can take her son. The Commons area is a general-purpose room that can be used for additional meeting space, be set up with folding tables/chairs for student lunch time, recreational area for early childhood classes, portable stage, etc. A storage room for tables, chairs, portable stage, etc. is adjacent to the Commons. The architect placed a patio on the drawing at the door on the east side of the Commons just as an idea.

**Reception Area, Offices, Conference Room, IT, Kitchen.** The receptionist will buzz in people wishing to enter the church/school while the regular lock-down of doors occurs during school hours. Those that are authorized will maintain a programmed key fob similar to those in use with the current school security. Next to the reception area are offices for two pastors and the school principal, teachers’ work room and a conference room. One Pastor office will have a window to the Commons to view the children and outside doorway. Storage cabinets or closets are located in each room. These rooms are grouped together to eliminate the need for duplicate office equipment such as copy machines, paper cutters, etc. The IT room will house all the wiring and equipment for the technological services required. The kitchen is situated for future use with a gym and until then a short and long window opening for serving purposes in the Commons and school sides. Plenty of cabinets in the kitchen with a dry storage room and another storage room located in the Commons.

**School.** The main entrance for the school is located in the NW corner of the Commons. A partition is being considered to block the children from entering the entire Commons as they arrive for school. Also, would be pickup area for parents to wait and converse. Considered as the west wing, three LES rooms (900 sq. ft each) with 25 children per room would share grades in classrooms of K-1; 2-4; 5-8. A music/art room may have multiple uses and the potential for use as another classroom. Only the LES bathrooms will have no hallway doors. Similar to a Wal-Mart style going around a wall into the bathroom to permit teachers to monitor. Considered as the north wing, three EC rooms (950-1,000 sq. ft each) with a low number of 20 children per room would each have their own bathroom with appropriate size toilets. The school area also includes a large mechanical room, storage room and another teacher workroom. All classrooms would have their own storage facilities and a sink in each room. Some type of coat racks (no lockers) would be installed in the hallways. No study or projections have been done to know the number of students in the next 10 years. Currently more non-member than member students – a field ripe for ministry. Sunday School classes will use the LES and/or EC classrooms with 1 cabinet specific for Sunday School use. Adult choir may practice in the music room but will be determined by the director as there are many options.

**Funding.** There are various funding sources to be considered. Cost to the annual budget will be determined on the loan size required and how much money is generated from the capital campaign. Additional funds will come from the sale of properties and/or items not taken to the new site. Suggested during the building process to include church members to assist with their talents of painting, staining, cleaning, etc. to help them feel ownership and to help cut costs.

**Other Comments.** Thoughtful, well-planned design investing in facility that is driven by how to fulfill God’s ministry. When standing at the north entrance hallway of the school looking south, there is a perfect straight view to the alter in the church. Need a gym with the school, before the church, to attract younger families in the community; can do more ministry with a gym. Church can be held in the commons or gym until church is built in future. As always, money concerns. The undesignated Endowment Funds could be totally depleted leaving only the designated funds.

**STILL A CONCEPT PLAN and SUBJECT TO CHANGES.** Yet to be determined: Type of siding, stone features, HVAC, sound system and acoustics, ceiling fans, flooring, paint colors, security and fire safety systems, custodial services, kitchen dishwashers, location of storage garages (lawn mowers, outdoor play equipment, seasonal items, etc.), outside lighting (parking lots, buildings, play areas), landscaping.

**No major decisions until after the capital campaign appeal.**

**Suggestions to Building Committee**

Steeple to be taller with cross on top (cross salvaged from current church?).

Steeple base (4 sided-box area) taller with stain glass windows on each side to be lit at night.

Possible for 2 types of steeples similar to current church? 1 on church / 1 at school entrance?

The steeple bell should be operational, not just decremental.

Don’t have cross on front of church look like church down the road (Alleluia).

Overall appearance could be a lower profile.

Decorative masonry block could be used if cost appropriate.

Front of church lacks road appeal (cheap); improve looks with some stone.

Not necessary to build the church proper to the extreme height as proposed.

Cornerstones from current original church and addition placed somewhere in new building.

Eliminate parking lot on the backside. Questionable to have two driveways from county highway.

Use some of the current smaller stained-glass windows for windows that face the road.

Plum Rd view appearance is great; dress up appearance of other elevations.

Don’t like white siding or stone on side of building.

Front view of church with dormers looks like a house.

Two windows on west side of building should be made into one long window.

Stained glass windows in upper portion of window with clear glass on bottom.

Windows open on the bottom.

Larger windows.

Seating in worship area should have some chairs with arms for handicap.

Chairs lock together so they don’t slide.

Padded pews.

Free standing altar.

“Circles” could be placed in floor for hearing impaired.

Choir and piano placement should be closer together.

Consider combining Narthex and Commons area into larger space especially if divider will be used anyway. Would give access to kitchen.

Smaller Commons area.

Will the kitchen service window create a bottle neck in that hallway?

Kitchen automatic dishwashers for sanitizing.

Commons must be more versatile with no gym (basketball, volleyball areas).

Question if there is essential storage space.

Long narrow storage spaces not efficient; doors should open in the middle, if possible.

Fencing around Pre-K play area.

Focus on Gym in phase one; to attract people as sports play a big role in our lives.

During building process include church members to assist with their many talents.

Is cost of moving items (especially the organ) from old church/school to new building included in $4.3 million amount?

Is there a designated tornado/storm area?

Need “Plan B” if we can’t do it all, what can we afford to do?

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