

# **St. Mark's Episcopal Church**

## **May 7<sup>th</sup> Campus Renewal Townhall Meeting**

### **Comment Summary**

#### **What about these plans are you excited about?**

- The Bell Tower, The Spiritual Center, Classrooms
- Concept of Spiritual Life Center on 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor
- That architecture will be respected
- I am very excited about the growth especially for the youth, but I worry with change it will affect current youth group
- Integration of more classrooms and breakouts, children's spaces, crying rooms, fluidity of foot traffic
- Making spaces more usable campus wide
- Concerned with the integrity of our country church in historic Ortega being ruined, Plan C is too much, Spiritual Center planned is too much
- Cohesive flow of the buildings, additional meeting spaces/support facilities, Contemporary Service Facility
- I really like the idea of classroom space for children and adults being in connected spaces
- Option C for sure, Auditorium of Spiritual Center on ground floor only
- Sanctuary Narthex/tower/bathrooms. The biggest thing we need is to focus on the core space of our unique form of worship. This is the unique draw to us and the Episcopal church in general. It may seem mundane but facilitating that by not having visitors feel awkward when asking for the restroom is quite large. As is the beautiful nature of the buildings.
- Excellent presentation. Am excited about all the phases for the future
- Expansive spaces- more people, if you build it, they will come
- Seems very ambitious!! Without preliminary cost estimates, its hard to get excited about any of it
- The Spiritual Performance Center, The Courtyard
- Maintaining the buildings we have for future generations, while maintaining the character. Adding much needed bathroom space.
- Unified campus with space for education and spiritual growth!

- Timeline provides ample opportunity to deliver the \$, Respect the fact we are staying within the architectural guidelines that were established 100 years ago, focusing the growth of the church towards the next generation of youth and young adults
- Fixing the Sanctuary

**Is there something you do not see that should be considered?**

- Red Lion- it is a big and wonderful addition for the community. With the house being torn down, nothing was mentioned on where or if; EYC- I am guessing it will be updated. Are they included in Spiritual life so they can use the stage like they were at Camp Weed?
- Early Learning Center; Option C- segregation, disruption? Funding from ESJ: Integrating ESJ into fundraising and planning growth
- Is Foundation involved in funding?
- We first need to do repairs to the existing sanctuary, where are all the new parishioners coming from?
- The congregation is growing both in number and energy- a lot of new children. Is there any conceptional plan for ever being able to add pews to accommodate more worshipers?
- Will the exterior of the new sections reflect the same architectural style of our present church and hall?
- What happens to the spiritual center when/if Billy becomes a rector elsewhere?
- Please keep the feel of the church the same- don't get too contemporary
- Wheelchair access in the sanctuary as well as the new construction
- In the current design where we have the courtyard, it is tight. The patio behind the church with the fountain is also tight and often underutilized. Consider ways to use that space to ensure it is utilized.
- I would think Leatherbury Hall should be in the first phase- then the spiritual center. Do bathrooms in library space
- Not in favor of demolishing McCarty Early Learning Center
- Increased parking to compliment the growth of the congregation- feasibility study should include a grant process
- There should be either a kitchen or at least a catering kitchen in any separate building where events are held

- I'm on the Altar Guild- will the Spiritual Life Center have a room to store communion vessels, linens and ciborium for the church services held there- there would also need to be a sink so we could wash and store communion vessels there.
- Other option for tower design above narthex

### **What constructive feedback would you offer?**

- Too many options, Great to dream big, but we must be realistic on capital that can be raised
- No tower
- Investigate the closure of Ionic with City soonest!
- There are so many meeting rooms as well as classrooms- don't need so many of both; leave mezzanine more open; smaller spiritual life would allow for a place to walk into such as Red Lion
- Option C- maintain as sense of "Anglican, high church – organ?"; would the central outdoor space be the only?
- If the SLC on second floor- does it limit access to congregation with disabilities- didn't see any elevators; noise levels if meeting rooms are on the second floor
- Please No "Green Room" for a Contemporary Worship Space. Green Room is a Hollywood concept which has a strong association with performers and their egos. Worship should occur in a contemporary worship space not performance. Studies show a big influx of young people going back to the church because of the tradition not for a rock concert.
- Take the community concerns and "other" development into consideration – "transparency is key"
- Are all the individual offices for staff needed? Are the cubical options/flexible options that allow for additional growth plus collaborative, revenue opportunities for each scheme? Can you hold non-church events easier/draw more people on campus; maximum flexibility- budget assumptions
- Thank you for the thoughtful approach. I'm not certain the tower is necessary, nor does it enhance the buildings – somehow does not seem to fit? I like the style without the towers.
- Do we have a grant writer who could seek other sources of funds? Parishioners must increase dramatically.

- I would consider a contingency plan in case external forces stop us at say Phase 1. This sort of happened in the past when the economic downturn occurred. I would be concerned if we built Phase 1, a large ticket item like the contemporary center, but none of the supporting buildings occurred. This would be worse than not building as it would be incomplete.
- I believe that the congregation will be excited and will support the financial phase in a very positive way.
- I commend you for your great communication with the congregation. God Bless You!
- We are a neighborhood parish and need to be careful of optimistic growth projections. Our St. Mark's school is a perfect example.
- By creating a community center/performance/conference center, the church could become a resource for the community, integrated parking with Ortega Village. I love the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor balcony seating and gallery around Leatherbury Hall, it would feel more intimate and create extra space
- Contemporary worship center should be the least priority; it could be implemented by adding onto the youth center with a 200-seat one-story space surrounded by windows. Priority should to the sanctuary plus Leatherbury office building which needs structural help and an elevator. The parish hall in Leatherbury should remain as is. No Mezzanine. For office meeting, break out space, a modest building should be built on Oxford Ave. This plan is too grandiose and expensive. The bell tower and narthex improvements should be priority.