



# **Rector's Forum on Campus Renewal: General Discussion**

**January 26, 2025**

## **Summary**

Charlie Holt discussed potential renovations and expansions for Leatherbury Hall and the church, including enhancing existing spaces, tearing down old buildings, and possibly expanding the sanctuary to accommodate more than 350 attendees. He emphasized the need for additional bathrooms and the potential for multiple services to maintain intimacy. The idea of a Spiritual Life Center was proposed to host concurrent worship services and other community events. Historical plans from 2008 were reviewed, highlighting potential changes like adding a tower and reconfiguring administrative offices. The importance of green spaces and the challenges of traffic and parking were also addressed.

## **Action Items**

- [ ] Consider the impact on the rose window and other existing features when evaluating design options
- [ ] Assess the traffic and access implications of closing the road and reconfiguring the campus layout
- [ ] Ensure that any new construction or renovations maintain adequate green space and gathering areas for the congregation
- [ ] Provide feedback and ideas on the renovation and expansion plans to the building committee chairs

## **Outline**

### **Leatherbury Hall and Building Enhancements**

- Charlie Holt discusses the potential renovations and new buildings, mentioning Leatherbury Hall and office spaces.
- There is interest in enhancing existing spaces, such as the tower or expanding around it for the altar guild or flower guild.
- The need for bathrooms in the existing church is highlighted as a significant enhancement.
- Two tear-downs are planned: the old steeg building and a yellow house, both to make way for potential growth.



## **Growth and Sanctuary Capacity**

- Charlie Holt explains the current capacity of the sanctuary, which seats 350, and the need for expansion as attendance grows.
- He mentions the loss of intimacy in a sanctuary space over 400 people and the ideal size of St Mark's Church.
- Multiple services are considered to manage growth, including returning to a 9 and 11 o'clock service schedule.
- The idea of evening services and concurrent worship services is introduced, with a Spiritual Life Center as a potential new space.

## **Spiritual Life Center and Multiple Services**

- Charlie Holt describes the Spiritual Life Center as a large meeting space for concurrent worship services and other community activities.
- He shares his experience at St John the Divine in Houston, where multiple services were held simultaneously without losing intimacy.
- Karen asks about the merger with the school and the current use of buildings on the campus.
- Charlie Holt explains the property lines and shared use agreements between the church and school.

## **Property Lines and Shared Use**

- Charlie Holt details the property lines between the church and school, including the McCarty Center and other buildings.
- He explains the shared use agreement for the McCarty Center and the nursery rooms used by the church.
- Jim Roundtree inquires about the Spiritual Life Center and its potential functions.
- Charlie Holt elaborates on the envisioned space for concurrent worship services, performing arts, lectures, and educational resources.

## **Trade-offs and Sunday School**

- Charlie Holt discusses the trade-offs of having multiple services and the importance of a strong Sunday school program.
- He highlights the lack of adequate space for education and the need for better facilities for children and adults.
- The idea of a full-time priest is brought up, with Charlie Holt announcing the hiring of a pastoral resident named Alex Cain.
- The potential impact of the new priest on the congregation is discussed, with excitement about his skills and potential.



## **Historical Plans and Architectural Concepts**

- Charlie Holt shares historical plans from 2008, including the expansion of the back with a tower and narthex.
- He discusses the potential impact on the rose window and the need to balance new construction with existing features.
- The idea of a central courtyard surrounded by buildings is presented as a long-term master plan.
- The reconfiguration of administrative offices and the potential for a new parish hall is considered.

## **Traffic and Parking Concerns**

- Concerns about traffic and parking are raised, particularly the impact of closing a road for new construction.
- The potential for major traffic issues during events like weddings or large gatherings is discussed.
- Charlie Holt emphasizes the need for professional planning to balance the benefits and challenges of new construction.
- The importance of green spaces for large church gatherings is highlighted, with memories of outdoor events as a positive aspect.

## **Final Thoughts and Next Steps**

- Charlie Holt encourages participants to think about the trade-offs and document their ideas for the building committee.
- He emphasizes the importance of capturing all ideas, no matter how small, to inform the planning process.
- The need for a larger print version of the handout is mentioned for easier reading.
- The meeting concludes with a call to action for participants to start the conversation and contribute their thoughts.

# **February 2 Rectors Forum**

## **Summary**

The February 2 Rector's Forum focused on the future development of Saint Mark's, addressing six key areas: spiritual life center, existing sanctuary, administrative and meeting spaces, parish gathering space, Christian formation, and campus improvement. Emily Magevney and Rev. Billy Cervený led discussions, emphasizing the importance of community input. Key points included the need for a new spiritual life center to accommodate growth, improve air conditioning and bathroom facilities in the sanctuary, and address office space constraints. The community was



encouraged to complete a parish-wide survey and participate in future meetings to refine plans and ensure transparency.

## **Action Items**

- [ ] Gather feedback from the congregation through a parish-wide survey.
- [ ] Explore options for flexible, multi-purpose spaces in the Spiritual Life Center design.
- [ ] Assess accessibility and mobility needs for the existing sanctuary, including wheelchair access and bathroom locations.
- [ ] Evaluate office and meeting space needs, considering proximity, concentration, and accessibility.
- [ ] Investigate the feasibility of adding a third floor to the existing office space.

## **Outline**

### **Spiritual Life Center Vision and Initial Discussion**

- Rev. Billy Cerveny opens the meeting with a prayer and shares his appreciation for the stories and memories associated with Saint Mark's.
- Emily Mageveny introduces herself and Ted Miller as co-chairs of the Campus Renewal Steering Committee, outlining the committee's goals and structure.
- Emily explains the six focus areas for the project: spiritual life center, existing sanctuary, administrative and meeting spaces, parish gathering space, Christian formation, and campus improvement.
- The meeting will focus on the spiritual life center, administrative and meeting spaces, and the existing sanctuary, with a parish-wide survey to be distributed later in the week.

### **Spiritual Life Center Details and Community Input**

- Rev. Billy Cerveny elaborates on the vision for the Spiritual Life Center, which would include a co-existing worship service, performing arts, community events, and various conferences.
- The community is invited to share their visions and ideas for the Spiritual Life Center, with a focus on how it could be used and what its purpose should be.
- Discussion includes the need for a full kitchen, catering services, and the potential for the center to serve as a rental facility for different groups.
- The importance of creating a central place for all campus functions and the challenges of using current spaces like Weatherby Hall and the Youth Center are highlighted.

### **Existing Sanctuary Improvements and Community Feedback**

- Rev. Billy Cerveny addresses the existing sanctuary, emphasizing that there are no plans to gut it but rather to improve it based on community feedback.
- Key issues discussed include the need for better air conditioning, more bathrooms, and the potential for a cry room for parents with young children.



- The community expresses a preference for maintaining the sanctuary's integrity and avoiding visual screens, while also suggesting improvements like better lighting and more cushions.
- The importance of accessibility for people with mobility issues and the need for better training for ushers and other volunteers are also discussed.

### **Administrative and Meeting Spaces: Office Needs and Parking Solutions**

- Rev. Billy Cervený shifts the focus to the administrative and meeting spaces, highlighting the need for more office space and better training for staff.
- The community discusses the challenges of the current office setup, including the need for an elevator and better parking solutions.
- The idea of adding a third floor for offices is proposed, with considerations for zoning and parking logistics.
- The importance of proximity for staff and the need to balance concentrated and spread-out office spaces are also discussed.

### **Next Steps and Community Engagement**

- Rev. Billy Cervený summarizes the key points discussed and emphasizes the importance of community input in the planning process.
- The community is encouraged to continue sharing their thoughts and ideas through questionnaires and future meetings.
- Emily Mageveny provides a preview of next week's topics: campus improvements, Christian formation, and the parish gathering space.
- The meeting concludes with a prayer led by Rev. Billy Cervený, thanking the community for their participation and emphasizing the importance of their input in shaping the future of Saint Mark's.



# **Rector's Forum on Parish Gathering Spaces, Christian Formation, & General Campus Improvements**

**February 9, 2025**

## **Summary**

The meeting focused on the master planning process for the church, emphasizing the need for feedback on existing spaces and potential improvements. Key areas discussed included parish gathering spaces, Christian formation, and general campus improvements. Specific issues highlighted were the need for larger, more accessible children's education spaces, better parking, and improved traffic flow. The conversation also touched on the importance of aligning the church's heart with the heart of God, emphasizing the crucified, resurrected, and spirit-filled life. Upcoming events like the Bufford Bowen renewal conference and Lenten series were also mentioned.

## **Action Items**

- [ ] Gather feedback from the congregation on the parish gathering space, Christian formation, and campus improvements.
- [ ] Provide a bird's eye view of the campus layout to help visualize the spaces and flow.
- [ ] Explore options for relocating the administrative offices away from the main parish life and education areas.
- [ ] Investigate solutions to improve parking, traffic flow, and accessibility on the campus.

## **Outline**

### **Master Planning Process Overview**

- Charlie Holt begins the meeting with a prayer, thanking God for the church and community.
- Charlie Holt discusses the master planning process, emphasizing the importance of gathering feedback and information from the congregation.
- The process involves creating a program document that will be reviewed and approved by the vestry.
- The architects will then use the program document to brainstorm conceptual ideas for the physical plant and campus.



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## **Parish Gathering Space Discussion**

- Charlie Holt introduces the topic of parish gathering space, mentioning Leatherberry Hall and the need for additional spaces.
- John raises concerns about the current layout and suggests a bird's eye view of the campus to understand the current distribution of Christian education.
- Charlie Holt outlines the current locations of Christian education, including nurseries, houses, and the Youth Center.
- The discussion highlights the need for better-designed spaces for children's education and the challenges of visitor and newcomer friendliness.

## **Christian Formation and General Campus Improvements**

- Charlie Holt explains the need for Christian formation spaces for children, youth, and adults, emphasizing the importance of play areas and program spaces.
- The conversation shifts to general campus improvements, including roads, campus flow, gardens, and courtyards.
- Participants discuss the need for more parking spaces and better infrastructure to support parish gatherings and Christian formation.
- The idea of having separate but contiguous spaces for parish gatherings and Christian formation is proposed.

## **Challenges and Solutions for Campus Layout**

- Participants discuss the challenges of the current campus layout, including visitor friendliness and the need for better-designed spaces.
- The idea of having administrative offices away from the main parish life and education areas is suggested.
- The conversation touches on the need for more green space and the potential for outdoor parish gathering spaces.
- The importance of naming problems and working with professionals to find solutions is emphasized.

## **Traffic and Safety Concerns**

- The discussion includes concerns about traffic safety on Ortega Boulevard and the need for medians and dedicated drives.
- The idea of closing certain streets to create a more structured parking area is proposed.
- Participants discuss the challenges of walking long distances on campus and the need for covered walkways and drop-off areas.
- The conversation highlights the need for thoughtful planning to address traffic and safety issues.

## **Survey Feedback and Next Steps**



- Charlie Holt encourages participants to fill out the survey to provide feedback on the six general areas identified for the master plan.
- The importance of gathering as much information as possible to create a comprehensive program document is emphasized.
- The next phase of forums will focus on conceptual ideas and how the master plan will look.
- Participants are reminded to keep providing their ideas and feedback to the team.

### **Closing Remarks and Prayer**

- Charlie Holt thanks everyone for their participation and feedback, emphasizing the importance of the information gathered.