

December 3, 2007

Dear Trinity Family,

Blessings to each of you as we approach this Christmas season! Many exciting things are happening with the Facility Oversight Team and we would like to give you an update. First, let me introduce the team to you. The team includes Brian Hector, Dave Mars, Dave Van Den Brink, Jodi McDonough, Karen Barker, Scott Simmelink and Scott Heemstra.

So, what is the team doing?

Currently, the team is meeting every Thursday evening for approximately two hours. The first several meetings were spent building community and developing a vision and some goals for the process. This phase culminated with the entire team spending three days in Atlanta attending the Worship Facilities Conference and Expo. The conference was hugely beneficial. Each of us learned a tremendous amount about the process and we heard stories of both successes and failures from other church projects. The team came back highly energized and ready to tackle the project.

Enclosed with this letter is a document describing goals that the team has discussed so far. This is not intended to be an unchanging document, nor one that is meant to capture everything related to the facility and process. However, this document does capture some of the common themes that surfaced as we discussed the many various aspects of the entire project.

So what are the next steps that the team is working on?

1. Communication and Input.
 - a. Surveys: In order for this to be a successful project, we need to have wide spread input from the entire congregation. We will use a series of surveys at various times in the process to discern the heart of the congregation. The first one will be coming soon.
 - b. What-if space: Another method of collecting dreams and visions will be the creation of a "What-if" space. This will be a space where anyone can submit pictures, notes, brainstorming and imaginings. More information about this will be coming soon.
2. Architects: We have begun collecting information on several different architects. We will be setting up interviews and working towards selection of one after the first of the year. The first step that will be performed with the selected architect will be to develop a "Master Plan" for the site. The process of master planning provides a "road map" for the site and facility that will guide us for the various phases of construction.
3. Campaign consultants: One of the things that we learned at the conference was that many churches use campaign consultants to raise funds for a construction project. As a team, we are planning to explore this and evaluate whether or not this type of arrangement would be a good fit for Trinity. We will be interviewing several consultants over the next month.
4. Financing: An additional nugget that we learned is that it is never too early to start exploring financing options. A tremendous amount of detailed information will be required when exploring this, so the team is developing a list of information to begin collecting.

These are the main areas that the team has been focused on. As you can see, there is a tremendous amount of work to be done. Once we have identified who our main partners will be, there will be additional teams created that will focus on various aspects of the project. As this point, we are not quite ready to begin formation of those teams.

So, when are we going to break ground?

Whoa, that is a good one! The team wishes we knew. However, at this point, it is purely a best guess. The team has spent time trying to answer this question. We hesitate to answer it because the timeline could vary widely from what we would anticipate today. In the spirit that this is our best guess today, we would anticipate that the timeline might look something like:

- Sept-Nov 2007 Team Organization
- Oct 07-Mar 08 Gathering Ideas and space planning
- Dec 07 Capital Campaign selection
- Jan-Feb 08 Architect selection
- Feb-Jun 08 Master Planning
- Jul-Dec 08 Phase 1 planning
- Fall 08 Capital Campaign
- Spring 09 Phase 1 construction begins (assuming that we have appropriate funding)

So, what are we going to do in the mean time? We are out of space now!

Thanks for asking!☺ The team is exploring some short- and medium-term solutions to our current space issues. The solutions that are developed will be recommended to the Leadership Team and Consistory for action.

Well that's a load of information! It brings you up to speed on everything that the Facility Oversight Team has done up to this point, and what the next couple of months look like as well. Please, please, do not hesitate to ask any one of the team members any questions that you have.

In Christ,

Scott Heemstra, on behalf of the Facility Oversight Team

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