

# Information Session Feedback & Response

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

## What You Said

Between November 11 and December 4, we held 18 Information Sessions about the Capital Campaign. All parishioners were invited, and 203 attended, including 18 EYC members. The purpose of these



meetings was to update everyone on preliminary plans, to determine the level of parish support and to gather feedback in order to

refine the proposed plan. At each session comments were recorded so that they could be addressed by the Planning and Building committees. The purpose of this document is to share a summary of those comments – what people feel good about and what concerns or suggestions they had – and to share responses.

The overall response to the plan and building design was extremely favorable. Most of the positive comments acknowledged the following areas:

- ☞ Focus on Christian education, outreach and music
- ☞ The overall design and look of the new building consistent with existing building
- ☞ Connecting the Parish House and New Building
- ☞ Multipurpose use of space
- ☞ Increased area for Loaves and Fishes

Not surprisingly, many people expressed agreement or concern, or identified areas they felt could be improved. Here is a list of some of those comments, with responses.

### GENERAL

- ☞ How can we make the facility “green”? How can we reduce light pollution?
- ☞ Do we anticipate future growth to support ongoing operating expenses?

- ☞ Will we break ground before securing funding?
- ☞ Can we raise the \$3.2 million?
- ☞ What is the impact of the uncertain economy?

Response – Comments: Whenever possible, we will incorporate green building techniques, and we will salvage as much as possible from the YAC. The Building Committee will continue to review and refine all potential costs, including financing options. The demolition of the YAC and construction of a new building will not begin until sufficient Campaign gift payments have been received. Many payments will be made over a five year period.

### ATRIA FOR CATECHESIS

- ☞ Do we really need three Catechesis rooms?
- ☞ Can we make the space for the Atria multi-purpose since we use meeting and classroom space more often than the Atria.

Response – Catechesis: While examining the needs of the church, it was determined that three dedicated atrium rooms were needed to provide quality Christian Education to the children in our parish. Expanding Catechesis to include three year olds as well as 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders calls for an additional atrium.

Making atriums multi-purpose defeats the mission of the program. Sharing space requires constantly moving materials and reorganizing the room. This not only affects the sacredness of the space but also damages the special child-centered materials needed for the program.

### OUTREACH

- ☞ Love having showers available for our RITI guests but need storage for guests.
- ☞ Do we have the optimal location for Loaves & Fishes?
- ☞ We need more space for Boy Scouts.



Response - Outreach: The proposed location for Loaves and Fishes was driven by delivery access. We will continue to work to maximize storage in both the existing and new building. In addition we will work closely with the Boy Scouts to make sure their storage and display needs are met.

**MUSIC - ORGAN**

- ☞ Music is vital to our services; most agree that we should fix the organ!
- ☞ Why do we need to move the organ; plenty of organists sit under their pipes.
- ☞ Are the organ pipes moving?

Response - Music: Only the console will move, and pipes will be added to their current location. The organist cannot hear the full organ sound because



the console is now placed directly under pipes. With the console on the other side of the chancel, the full ensemble of organ and choir can be heard. Appropriate volume levels can only be chosen for

congregational singing and choir accompaniment when the organist can hear the full ensemble.

**PARISH HOUSE**

- ☞ Need handicap accessibility from the sanctuary to Henry Hall.
- ☞ The gift shop needs to be enlarged
- ☞ Are there plans to update the kitchen?
- ☞ Need a larger sacristy
- ☞ Need a chapel for more intimate services
- ☞ Security for parish house if staff is in new building

Response - Parish House: An elevator is cost prohibitive and would require significant renovations to the building's existing structure. We are presently looking to incorporate a lift which would enable handicap access from the sanctuary to Henry Hall. We will meet with the architect to explore options to expand the existing space

utilized by the gift shop. There are no current plans to update the existing kitchen. The sacristy will be reviewed for minor improvement. A chapel would be a great addition to our current facility; however, it is out of our price range and would require a its own capital campaign. Security will be reviewed and will consider Weekday School.

**NEW BUILDING**

- ☞ Individual offices seem excessive
- ☞ Good multipurpose use of space; use moveable walls
- ☞ Are closets and storage being considered for meeting rooms?
- ☞ Technology needs to be in the plan now

Response - New Building: The office space in the New Building is only a 6% increase over that of the Parish House. In a layout such as ours, it is equally cost effective to create offices as it would be to develop space with individual cubicles. The large meeting room will have very flexible space, and we will discuss with the architect about getting the space pre-wired for audio/visual needs. We will talk to the architect about the need to maximize storage, especially for Boy Scouts.

**PARKING**

- ☞ Not enough parking added
- ☞ Parking lot lights should not shine on neighbors' houses

Response - Parking: Approximately eight additional parking spaces will be created. Landscaping will be needed to buffer neighbors from lighting and traffic.



**Prayer for Holy Comforter Capital Campaign**

O God, you have called us to be caretakers of your creation and stewards of your abundance. Give us discerning hearts to use your gifts wisely and to share them generously and all to your glory, Amen.