



Grace Lutheran Church
28 West Main St. * Macungie, Pa. 18062

Jeff Spann
Church Building Consultant
Mission Investment Fund ELCA

Meeting with ELCA Building Consultant
May 6, 2010

On Thursday May 6, 2010, a meeting was held with Jeff Spann, a Building Consultant for the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA. In attendance was Paul Zimmer, Janice Wetzel, and Pastor Bartlett. (Chris Becker, Shawn Morgan and Tom Devine had also been informed of the meeting.) We spent more than two hours walking in and around the buildings sharing thoughts and ideas.

In the end, Mr. Spann reinforced the idea that we need to think through how we want to use the buildings and then work out a plan to accomplish that. Since there is so much, and doing one item often means something else is affected, it might mean that we choose to bundle the entire list of projects and get a loan from the Mission Investment Fund or other lender to do them all at once.

The following is a list of some of the ideas that came out of the meeting. They are in no particular order. We did not talk about the sinking flooring – as that is already being handled, but if we were to package all the possibilities, then the flooring could certainly be part of the whole package.

Chapel Area

- Make the area into an attractive entrance space.
- Get rid of clutter, put mailboxes in office or workroom
- Use the former stage area for meeting space.
- Get new conference table and chairs or ask for corporate donation
- New lighting in that area
- Divide that space off by having a different kind of flooring – possibly wood.
- Could put a countertop, sink. (mini) refrigerator, etc around the corner near the secretary's office. This would then be used for coffee hours and meetings.
- Keep the entire floor one level – lower height of exterior basement entrance or eliminate basement exit altogether.
- Replace exterior ramp door (rotting) and work on warped ramp railing.
- Redo handicapped bathroom
- Possibly rework office space – possibly adding second door in office/workroom
- Pastor's office could be reconfigured and end toward main street closed off and used for storage of bell tables and other equipment, access through door into chapel.
- Move piano and organ into separate combined music practice/robing room in education building (see Education Building – Upper Level)
- Consider getting rid of grand piano, or if not, refinishing it all (from top to keys.)

- If this is coffee hour and gathering space, then make the space comfortable for food and gather – small tables – some higher with stools.
- Get rid of all mismatched furniture – could even send it upstairs and get rid of some of the old youth sofas.
- One side of room could be display area
- Could use furniture to divide spaces in room
- All furnishings should match to avoid the thrift store appearance

Youth Room/Storage Area above Chapel

- New windows in both youth room and storage area to replace dry rotted current windows
- Consider putting higher dormer by exit door and installing full size exit door to replace current rotting ones
- Consider replacing stained glass windows with insulated frosted glass windows, perhaps a smaller size and filling in the arch
- Install new plumbing fixtures in bathroom currently not functional.

Alley Entranceway

- Decide if you need the storage space where PA system is resting
- If it is kept: paint it and add countertop, or even cabinet on top of that one
- Get rid of storage of music stands in hallway.

Hallway between Chapel/Sanctuary and Access Entrance

- Remove confirmation pictures and portrait of Pastor Naugle – could be relocated elsewhere.
- Install magnetic bulletin boards – use to display photos and info about Grace
- Install track lighting to highlight those areas
- Need more signage for people coming into building – where are offices, sanctuary, restrooms, nursery?
- Coat hooks (wooden pegs?) in elevator hallway – currently no place for coats for people entering that way.
- Sign over black bulletin board – “←Sanctuary” or “←Worship”

Sanctuary

- Handicapped cuts for pews can be accomplished in one of two ways
 - Removing end piece, cutting off approximately 36” of pew, and reinstalled end piece or a modification of them. Need two such cutouts, staggered so they are not across from each other.
 - Remove from middle of each side an entire pew across from each other, making a center space which would then be a magnet for people in wheelchairs, walkers, baby carriers, etc.

Exterior

- “Up lighting” on exterior of building to make it more visible from Main Street
- New sign – with Grace wording and cross symbol, but rest of info supplied electronically, computer controlled. Information displaying as set of info, then changing to another set, NOT scrolling

- Possibly adding the word "GRACE" to the access ramp stone wall facing Main Street to tie building together and show who we are. Would need to be dark color to be seen, could even be back lit.

Education Building – Upper Level

- Replace all windows -- perhaps two sliding thermal pane windows would fit in each opening (side by side)
- Replace lighting with energy efficient recessed 2x4 or 2x2 lighting
- Create space for music rehearsal and robing (use organ from chapel and piano from current "music" room) – If grand piano is to be kept and moved into this space, use professional piano movers. This space would come from two (or as many as three) rooms on parking lot side. Robes could be hung in cabinets currently in classroom, with modifications.
- Use current windowless female choir robing room for storage – perhaps Sunday school – freeing up basement storage for chairs and tables.
- Use current male choir robing area for music office, music storage.
- In restrooms, install motion sensors for lighting
- To overcome cold restroom – add timer controlled electric heating for Sundays
- Insulation – get insulation contractor in to see how much more could be added cost effectively

Stairwells

- Replace broken glass in lower side panels in both stairwells

Education Building – Lower Level

- Replace all windows, install insulated sliding windows
- Get rid of light blocking masonite inserts – install vertical blinds into space
- Replace flooring – lots of options, including poured floor
- Replace all lighting fixtures with new energy efficient fixtures
- Replace all seating – get rid of folding chairs
- Get rid of all the old brown topped tables, and get the white topped ones.
- Get rid of all the clutter – old pews, stable, old altar, boxes
- If SS storage is moved upstairs, make current storage entrance bigger to allow for racks of tables and chairs – perhaps also making space there for sewing circles supplies
- Kitchen area could be made better with resurfacing cabinets and new countertop on "L" spaced counter, perhaps even installing an island and getting rid of table
- Install unisex handicapped restroom in one of three locations: 1) using bottom of stairwell and space across from lift; or 2) area where the organ and piano currently are located (putting room in corner with short hallway to block sight line to door; or 3) created a box like room in the fellowship hall near kitchen by counter and exterior stairwell to courtyard.
- Enclose AC ductwork
- Remove paneling and redo walls and paint