

Architect Steering Committee

January 7, 2010

-Meeting Minutes -

Steering Committee Members

Kurt Adler, Kim Bakic, Caroline Bradshaw, Jim Caldarola, Deacon Ken Donohue, Shirley Germaine, Maureen Haines, Kathy Harte and Katie Reed.

Also present: Fr. Jaime and Fr. Tom and Mr. Bruce Williams, Principal, Black and White Studio Architects

Business Discussed

Meeting began at 7:00pm with prayer and individual introductions.

Bruce Williams emphasized that he wanted the Committee to provide him with direction. He reminded the Committee that a good architect listens carefully and that he wanted to come to a design that fit the parish's objectives and addressed the problem areas the Committee identified. Consequently he wanted the committee to identify problem areas, not offer solutions, and that he wanted to come to know the "heart and soul" of the community.

Conceptual design will address interior space, including the sanctuary (altar area), nave (congregation), narthex (foyer) and both front and rear entrance areas to the Church. The entire building should be "welcoming."

Problem Areas Identified

- a. Current entrance areas don't show that one is being invited into sacred space, especially the back hallway through which the majority of parishioners enter and exit.
- b. Current worship space lacks a sense of raising one's awareness of God's presence. No "wow" factor. This "wow" factor can also be achieved through simplicity in design. Current structure would not serve well to try and be "one of the European cathedrals." "We should not try and make our space something it should not be." The space should serve to open the laity's relationship with God.
- c. Lighting is both too dim and the black fixtures don't compliment the interior. Lighting dimmer panel need to be replaced.
- d. Space above the crucifix is dirty and the apparent original intent of the design to let in ambient lighting doesn't seem to work well. Perhaps the crucifix could be lit in some manner.

- e. The current altar is undersized in dimension and lacks the proper majesty and “weight” an altar should convey as the central symbol in a Catholic Church. The large crucifix makes the altar appear even smaller.
- f. Ambo should match the new material of the altar.
- g. Baptismal font doesn’t match the sanctuary colors or materials.
- h. No handicap access to the sanctuary.
- i. Choir area needs to be addressed. Organ set low can be a safety issue. Inadequate music storage.
- j. Extended discussion about location of the space in the room behind the altar. Might it be used as an area of adoration?
- k. Should Tabernacle remain in its present location or can it be moved?
- l. Inadequate amount of seating for 11:30am Mass.

Current Assets of the Church as Designed

- a. Use of wide open space. A sense of “airy-ness.”
- b. Sloping floor.
- c. Lighting behind the altar.
- d. Seeing Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.
- e. Adoration has become part of this community and space needs to remain allocated to this apostolate.

A Remodel will be Successful if it...

- a. Inspires prayer.
- b. Brings community together to worship.
- c. Points laity’s interior growth to God.
- d. People look forward to coming back.

A Remodel will Fail if...

- a. Does not unite laity to interior growth to God.

b. It secularizes the Church environment.

Next Steps

Bruce to begin immediately with the conceptual design process.

Next meeting will be Friday, February 12th at 7:00pm.

Meeting ended at 10:30pm.