

Kempton New Church

Long-Range Facilities Master Plan

REPORT ON SOCIETY PLANNING MEETINGS OF NOVEMBER 6 and NOVEMBER 20, 2014, BASED ON MINUTES OF THOSE MEETINGS

[rev. 12/15/2014]

THE REASON FOR A LONG-RANGE PLAN: It's difficult to make even small modifications and improvements to our campus if we don't know where major components will be located. A look at the Building Committee's current project list illuminates this problem. The planning process itself helps us to think about problems and solutions, and the plan we create from the process is a guide for the future. But it's not a mandate; we don't have to do anything shown on the plan. It just shows us what we *can* do, if needed.

WHERE WE ARE IN THE PLANNING PROCESS: Our consultants heard from us about our wishes and desires, as well as what doesn't work so well about our facilities, and they responded with some preliminary, very rough ideas (options 1-4). These do not constitute the final plan in any way, but simply provide something for us to think about and react to. For example, the plans currently show a full "build-out" of the school (a classroom for every class). Could this ever happen, and is it even desirable? Perhaps not, but showing how we could physically expand as far as we wish is important information – information we would not have if it were not shown as feasible on a preliminary plan.

CURRENT OBJECTIVE: At this point in the process, the most important decision to be made is the location of the church. In determining this, we should consider what the most important uses of a temple are. Is Sunday worship? Should it be a quiet "sanctuary"? Should it be a dedicated worship space serving no other uses? Should the church be distinct from, or combined with, the school? Second in priority is the location of the entryway to the school. Everything else can settle around those two important decisions.

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES FROM MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 6th MEETING (51 present)

- There was discomfort expressed about the discussion-group format planned for this meeting. There was concern expressed about the efficacy of the exercise. (Response: No one has to do anything with which they are uncomfortable or consider a waste of time.)
- Doubts were expressed about the financial plausibility of the four options as presented. (Response: See explanation above in "Where we are in the planning process.")
- How have we dealt with facility needs in the past? (Response: Usually, we wait until the need becomes glaring, and then try to remedy it, or people donate piecemeal improvements, but without an overall plan to work within.)
- There seem to be conflicting ideas about whether the church and school should be connected. (Response: Yes.)
- Since we voted to add 11th and 12th grades, why are we wasting our energy on this process? Let's put the effort towards the added grades. (Response: Some feel it's a perfect time to do long-range planning *because* we are growing and want to expand the school.)
- Are we going to organize our planning or just let our disagreements block things? Who is in charge, and who has the mandate to make these decisions?
- There are lots of small practical things that need to happen. The small changes that need to happen, especially in the school, lead to more problems and ideas. It's time to know where we are headed.
- The society is changing. The original members are getting older. We have more people not involved in the school.

- Doesn't get the distinction between this effort and what happened ten years ago. Some felt what happened ten years ago was a focus on the church, but that the school took over the lead.
- It seems like the people on the committees are more for these plans than the rest of us. (Response: Not so. The committee, as a committee, is impartial and is only trying to facilitate discussion and decision-making. The committee does not decide; the society decides.)
- Right now we should not be considering the money. If we have a plan, then when/if we get a chunk of money, we can build without difficulty. It's a reason to make these kinds of plans.
- Do people want a new church? Do people want a new school building? Maybe we can have a vote on that.
- Let's remember all the work the building committee and now the long-range planning committee has done and the expertise required. In order to have a straw poll we would all have to be educated about many things, which is not practical.
- Do we have a list of all our needs? Where do I find it? (Response: The list is available on the KNC website. Go to <http://www.kemptonnewchurch.org/downloads>, click on Miscellaneous Information, then on Building Committee Project list.)
- This exercise is about saving money. We put place holders in our plans so we don't have to tear down something we built.
- Maybe everyone in the society could write down 3-5 things they feel about the four plans. (Response: That's the purpose of this evening's exercise.)
- Let's not confuse the picture and allow the masses to run over the committee. It's like a woman's body: when a child is growing, it's only the womb, and not the whole body, that works on it.
- Someone thinks a new church is very important because of the importance of conjugal love and marriage. The kids grow up here, and then must go somewhere else to get married, or rent an expensive tent.
- Please communicate to the committee in any way you feel comfortable.
- Just look at the general location of uses, rather than shapes of buildings.
- Let's have a separate meeting for each option so the society can discuss each one as a whole.
- What if the Long Rangers go back and reassess, then come back to the society with a "sales pitch" along with data about the needs for buildings, as well as demographic issues which are affecting the church and school?
- Is the basic decision whether the church should be in the same complex as the school or be separate? (Response: Yes.)

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## **RESULTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL BREAK-OUT SESSIONS ON NOVEMBER 21<sup>st</sup> (12~ participants in each group)**

- **OPTION #1 (CHURCH TO THE WEST) – 12% OF YELLOW STICKERS**
  - **PROS:**
    - More design options (any shape, facing any direction)
    - Good visibility, good view
    - Separates church and school; less interference for each which allows each to focus on its own uses
    - Good for weddings
    - Building a church over there (to the west) gives us more options over here
    - Separating uses of church and school allows both to grow

- Closer to the cemetery; more connected
  - **CONS:**
    - Having to fill in the gully; lots of excavating
    - Too many parking lots; high maintenance
    - Pastor's presence always missing in one of the locations
    - Duplication of Sunday school rooms, social hall, kitchen, bathrooms
    - Cost of heating multiple buildings
    - Church is too separated from the school
    - Less expensive options are available to accommodate needs
    - An affront to the community at large; view lines are ruined
    - A lot of pavement; huge snow-plowing task
    - Complicated traffic flow for school activities
    - Too much parking space on the east; loss of view, garden, and playing field
    - Regarding west-facing entry doors to the school: too much wind
- **OPTION #2 (CHURCH TO THE EAST) – 7% OF YELLOW STICKERS**
  - **PROS:**
    - Only have to heat the sanctuary on Sunday
    - Separate space allows more specific uses of space (funerals, weddings)
    - Eastern orientation; potentially nice views
    - Connecting walkway and short-term parking
    - Stand-alone social hall
    - Church is not another means of ingress to the school
    - Consideration for retirees' needs (KNCH housing)
    - Visible from Hawk Mountain Road
    - Able to accommodate more people
    - A quiet sanctuary for the entire service
    - More secure if separate
    - Leaves more room for school expansion
    - A separate space for worship
    - More Sunday school rooms
    - Ring road could be natural, rather than paved
    - Plaza is nice
  - **CONS:**
    - Another space to build, heat, maintain
    - Requires duplicate sanctuaries or travelling to church for school chapel

- Duplicate rooms for Sunday school and too far away from school building to travel for Sunday School
  - Security an issue
  - Separated pastor's office
  - North, south, and west views ruined by parking lot; cars driving by might impact view to the east; parking lots a large concern
  - Church too far from the center of activities; feels isolated
  - "Heinous" plaza
  - Loss/relocation of sports field
  - Two-level structure harder to access
- **OPTION #3 (CHURCH TO THE NORTH) – 57% OF THE YELLOW STICKERS**
    - **PROS:**
      - Similar to what we have now; close in proximity and direction of view
      - Handy to the school, making it usable by students
      - Will be built on a rock – or at least on a lot of shale
      - This location would only minimally impact other uses
      - Using classrooms for Sunday school an economy
      - It's nice to go "uphill" to go to church
      - Society room expands in size economically; can be used by church and school
      - Will be more of a sanctuary than current church
      - More visible from the road
      - Allows for better parking in the back (perhaps different than the plan shows, though)
      - Being attached shows that the school is a religious school
      - Church being close to school might get used more often than farther away
      - Likely to be less expensive than other options (same septic and well); would save about 4,000 sq. ft. that would have to be built in other options
      - Allows for us to develop current space as we would like
      - Only option that shares society room with school
      - Allows pastor to be closer to the school than other options
      - Nice for cemetery to be at a distance
      - Society room is well-placed *between* the church and school
      - Easier to care for church if it's closer in proximity
      - Could build in parking and space for more discrete counseling or worship
      - Beginning with a new footprint, and not just working with what we've got
      - In design, could enhance pageant space
      - Sharing the church with school students
      - "Church in the round" is definitely doable with this option

- If we outgrow the church in this location, it could be turned over to the school and a new church built elsewhere
- Moving the entryways (church and school) to the east, with appropriate parking, makes good sense
- Library emphasis is great

○ **CONS:**

- Runs into the shale head
- Use of classrooms also as Sunday school rooms
- Having school chapel in the church
- It might not be a sanctuary like a separate church would be
- Being attached to the school might detract from it being a church
- Being attached to the school might make it seem that it's only a church for those who have children in school and not available to all
- Accessibility by handicapped could be a problem if there is an elevation
- Views not as nice as in other options
- The slight disconnect with the social hall could negatively affect attendance of fellowship after church; moving people would be an issue
- Perhaps not as private for counseling by the pastor or for worship
- Could impact pageant and performance space
- Feels more like a complex
- Proximity of buildings does not necessarily mean operational savings; in fact, heating costs could be greater than a separate church

● **OPTION #4 (STAY PUT) – 10% OF THE YELLOW STICKERS**

○ **PROS:**

- Probably the least expensive option; less time-consuming
- Happy remains/attachments to the sanctuary and the space is familiar
- We already have Al Holmes' attractive suggestions for expanding into the society room
- Church would still be connected to the school for community togetherness
- Money saved by sharing church spaces with the school
- The current church feels bursting and alive instead of an empty-ish large church
- Nice to separate the two social halls for different uses
- Could expand even further into the kitchen

○ **CON:**

- Worship during this expansion would be difficult
- A lo-o-ong church – hard to speak to for a minister; loss of charm and sphere
- Won't necessarily incorporate everyone any better in the sacred space
- Bad option for the children – hard to feel connected to the minister

- Worst option for quiet space in the church for prayer/reflection during school hours
  - This misses out on making an intentional-looking church and opportunities for local craftsmen
  - Might be so many changes needed that it could end up costing a lot
  - There were some issues with Al Holmes' plan
  - Parking lot built on the gully – more expensive and perhaps too far away
  - Current sanctuary only has light on two sides
  - If we change the orientation of the present sanctuary, we would be in a different sanctuary anyway
  - Problems with this plan: *two* multi-purpose rooms, *two* parking areas
  - Still not any larger for festival services and weddings
  - Might not feel all that different than what we have now
  - Still doesn't look like a church from the outside
- **“TAKING THE FIFTH” (NO DECISION OR NO PREFERENCE) – 14% OF THE YELLOW STICKERS**



**COMMENTS, RESPONSES FROM DISCUSSION FOLLOWING THE BREAK-OUT SESSIONS (50 present)**

- Duplicating rooms is not viewed positively in any option by most people.
- Heating issues are a concern for a lot of people.
- Parking issues are also a big concern.
- Building in the gully, whether buildings or parking lots, is viewed as cost-prohibitive.
- The need for a bigger space was genuinely acknowledged by most people.
- People want a quiet sanctuary for different types of services (weddings, funerals, etc.).
- Flow of people was a topic brought up often; flow in, around, and between church and school.
- Much discussion in regards to Sunday school being able to use the school for rooms.
- It was suggested to create lists for each plan stating their important essentials.
- Seemed to be a general appreciation for keeping similar feeling of the current church, whether it's by staying in the same footprint or going elsewhere.
- Visibility from the road seemed to be an important factor for many people; we want people to know a church exists here.
- People want the pastor to be closer to the school.
- The costs had a big impact on people. Saving money is important to everyone.
- It's generally understood most utility rooms, kitchen, society room, etc. are currently not sufficient.
- What are the appropriate needs for the uses of the church and the uses of the school, and is it appropriate to have those uses connected or separated in those needs?
- Flexible use of rooms was deemed important.
- Views from the church were an important aspect for people.
- The need to see the location of some sort of gymnasium in the plan was expressed.

- It was difficult for people to envision all the possible options with each plot plan; more details will/should be made for possible plans.
- Some of the teachers expressed their love of coming to teach at a school which is also a church.
- The community at large doesn't realize they can come to church; may think it is a private school organization.
- In relation to the plans of the school, concern that they showed classrooms for each grade. Seemed pie-in-the-sky. (Response: Drawings are not a plan to build; only to show how the school can expand as needed up to that limit, however unlikely it would be to ever reach that limit.)
- What about the manse? Shouldn't we address it and its position? (Response: At this relatively early stage of this process, it's not necessary to engage in that discussion. When other determinations are made, the manse, as well as other peripheral buildings, would be addressed.)
- A hope was expressed that we realize the perfect solution isn't possible. And even if we had what seems like a perfect solution, tomorrow or a week or five years from now, it wouldn't be perfect. So think of the long-term view and how it will best fit our uses.
- Our current chapel holds 200 people maximum and about 150 comfortably.
- Attendance over the last ten years (looking at the averages for each year):
  - Combined services – high, 158; low, 109
  - Family services – high, 160; low, 110
  - Thanksgiving services – high, 264; low, 145
  - Christmas services – high, 312; low, 257
  - Palm Sunday services – high, 218; low, 171
  - Easter services – high, 350; low, 246
  - June 19<sup>th</sup> services – high, 255; low, 198
- KNCS's *rough* enrollment projection (K-12) based on all children of current KNC families:
  - 2014-2015 – 83
  - 2015-2016 – 88
  - 2016-2017 – 99
  - 2017-2018 – 99
  - 2018-2019 – 100
  - 2019-2020 – 102
  - 2020-2021 – 96