

Questions and Answers about our Building Proposal

Why do we need to add on to the building? Isn't it beautiful the way it is?

Yes, it is, especially for a building with a sanctuary from 1840! Over many decades, our Trustees have done excellent work, and the recent improvements – the ramp compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the foundation repairs, the new restroom downstairs, the chair lift from the sanctuary to the Fellowship Hall, and video upgrades – are all wonderful.

*But – the chancel level and the second floor are **not** accessible without using stairs. We want to have a **church building for everyone**, and a small elevator is the best way to make that possible.*

What will the addition include?

*Two stories, with a new, ADA compliant restroom on **each** level, an elevator that will reach **all** levels of the church, stairs between the two stories, a new entrance off the south parking lot, and a small lobby on each story that could be used as a meeting area. The building stands out from the side of the church by 22.5 feet and runs 29 feet along the south side. It begins 7.5 feet from the back corner of the building so as not to impinge on the leach field behind and beside the church. We have always wanted to have a restroom on the sanctuary level but had no place to locate one. Now we will! The plan also includes renovations to our existing kitchen, and our church pledge to Camp Christian. As former pastor Rev. Ray Bosh would say, we are putting all our 'begs' into one 'ask-it.'*

How will an elevator provide access to all levels of the church?

*Our church building is complicated because we have more than two main levels. We have the downstairs with the Fellowship Hall, the kitchen, the Campbell Room, and the first floor of the north wing; and we have the chancel level with the rooms behind it and the second floor of the north wing. The sanctuary 'floats' between them, 21 inches lower than the upper level. Since ADA compliant ramps need one foot of length for every inch of rise, we would need 21 feet of ramp to connect the sanctuary level with the second floor. A simple solution comes with an **elevator with two doors**. Go in the elevator from the first floor, press one button, and go out the same door on the sanctuary level. Or press another button, the elevator rises another 21 inches, and go out the back door, at the chancel and second floor level! An elevator with two doors is more expensive, but is much cheaper than a larger building with 21 feet of ramp, and a few additional seconds in an elevator is much more convenient than walking 21 feet of ramp.*

The second floor of the addition will mostly be at the level of the sanctuary, but just behind the elevator, it will be at the level of the chancel and the second floor of the building – that's where the rear door of the elevator will open. Three small stairs will allow able-bodied folks to move from the sanctuary level to the chancel level.

How many people can ride in the elevator? What's its load capacity? Don't they require regular inspections?

We will use a LULA elevator (Limited Use, Limited Availability) which is smaller and less expensive than a full-sized commercial elevator as you would find in an office building. A LULA elevator looks and works just like the elevators you are used to seeing, but is smaller. It will conveniently hold a person in a wheelchair and a companion, or two people on walkers and a companion, or four able-bodied people, and lift 1400 pounds. They typically travel 30 feet per minute, so the ride up or down will take only about 20 seconds. Commercial elevators must be inspected monthly, but LULAs require inspection only twice a year.

Our church is on the National Register of Historic Places. Are we allowed to make changes in the building?

Yes! The National register is maintained by the National Park Service, but overseen in each state by its State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Ours is in Columbus. That office confirmed that the owners of a building can do anything with it, including adding to the building. The suggestion is that an addition should be compatible with the original building; for example, we would not build a modern steel-and-glass addition to our 1840's wooden sanctuary, but that the addition should differ slightly from the original to avoid the perception that the addition was part of the original structure. A change in window details, or a different width of lap siding, for example, will show that the new structure is really an addition.

How will we get into the new addition? The ground level on the south side of the church is several feet above the Fellowship Hall level.

That's correct. But the south parking lot slopes away from the building, and out about 75 feet or so, it's at the level of the Fellowship Hall. Excavating and grading the area will bring the contours together so that the new addition will sit at the same level as the lower level of the church. The window at the current corner of the Fellowship Hall – right by the exiting stairs that will be removed – will become the doorway from the lower level of the addition into the Fellowship Hall. The addition will include a new set of safe, wide stairs between the sanctuary level and the Fellowship Hall level. Removing the existing stairs also adds more usable space in the Hall, as well.

How will we get from the new building into the sanctuary, and into the chancel level and the second floor?

The current narrow stairs at the corner of the sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall will be removed and filled in to extend the sanctuary floor. The first window on the south side of the sanctuary (near the existing steps) will become a doorway from the new addition. Similarly, the upstairs window on the south side (the second from the end of the building) will become the doorway from the new addition to the chancel level and the second floor of the church building. That window currently leads into a storage room right behind the chancel. We could make a hallway there with storage on the

side; we'll see what works best as we refine the plans with input from the Trustees and the Worship Team, and the architect.

Who is the architect? How much does he charge?

David Patterson, the president of Motter and Meadows of Canton, is our architect. Rod Meadows of that firm designed the previous plans for the church renovations that were scuttled by the Covid crisis, and he has since passed away. Mr. Patterson actually prepared most of the drawings for that earlier plan, and he knows the church well, so it made sense to continue with that firm. Architects earn a percentage of the cost of the building; since we did not follow through with those earlier plans and have not yet committed to this new design, we have not paid the company anything, at all, for years of work.

What upgrades are planned for the kitchen?

We will seek input from folks who use the kitchen frequently! We certainly need a new and probably larger refrigerator, and we have heard interest in new countertops and flooring, but we will only make decisions as a Third Century Team with lots of advice and wishes from people who know and use the kitchen.

Incidentally, this is our third plan for an addition, and earlier ones included a larger commercial kitchen, but the costs were even more difficult to grasp. Better to improve what we have, we thought.

How much will this addition cost? How will we pay for it?

Mr. Patterson is quick to admit that construction costs have soared since the pandemic. The cost estimate for this compact addition is about the same as the total cost of the much larger addition that the church was considering before Covid shut down our dreams! He estimates \$240 per square foot, and we have two stories with 660 square feet each. Here is the breakdown:

Construction of the building (1,320 sq ft x \$240/sq ft) = \$316,000

20% for contingencies = 63,600

Elevator= 110,000

Kitchen upgrades = 20,000

Pledge to the Camp Christian Fund = 30,000

Total, over three years = \$540,000

That's a lot, much more than anyone on the Third Century Team could have imagined as we started our dreaming. Per year, we will need to raise \$180,000, nearly the total operating expense of our church. However, grants are available for making older buildings accessible, and we will be actively pursuing them if the congregation votes to go ahead with this plan. We will also be looking for Leadership Donors within the congregation and the community. As with any project, we will be able to do some of the work ourselves – interior painting, for example – and I can imagine a Memorial Wall where donors can place inscribed bricks or plaques in memory or honor of loved ones. MCCC folks are always wise and clever about fundraising!

*We will not begin construction until we have three-fourths of the funds pledged.
We can do this, if we choose to!*

**Other questions? Please contact members of the Third Century Team, as we complete
A Church Building for Everyone!**

Randy Alger	randyalger@cs.com	330-221-5800
Pam Baynes	PBDH1976@yahoo.com	440-796-6680
Roger Cram	rogerfcram@gmail.com	330-569-4912
Linda Idoine	linda.idoine@gmail.com	330-285-6753
Karly Lind	karlylind16@gmail.com	330-687-0717
Carol Magyarics	carol.magyarics@gmail.com	440-840-7704
Jon Secaur	jsecaur@kent.edu	330-285-6754
Brian Summerlin	sfd141@gmail.com	440-667-9437
Dottie Summerlin	drs52652@gmail.com	440-567-1403
Beth Voynovich	elizabeth.voynovich@gmail.com	216-990-6100