



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH – SOUTH ST PAUL NARTHEX AND ENTRY RENOVATION PROJECT

PROJECT Q AND A 8/6/2011

Here are some of the more common questions and answers that have come up during the early stages of the project. The answers may well change as the project proceeds.

What is this project about?

There have been many complaints over the years about the unattractive and inefficient layout of the church's "front room" – the area stretching across the North face of the building from the nursery and bathroom, the former card shop, the narthex and the lobby area to the East lobby leading to the parking lot. Primary focus will be on the northwest corner of the building.

Why are we doing this right now?

Several reasons; the church is debt-free and if financing is needed, this is a good time to tap the financial markets; the economy may benefit us because of competition between construction companies; we are hoping to increase the attractiveness and efficiency of the building at a time when we have stiff competition for new members.

What do we hope to accomplish through this project?

We want a more attractive, inviting, flexible and functional space that will serve both members and visitors alike. And, we want all the parts to work better together when we're done.

How did we arrive at the conclusion that we needed to do something about the entry?

This was the consensus of the responses to a survey sent to all of the ministries, and the conclusion of several exploratory meetings open to the congregation. A committee chaired by President Dr. Scott Stinson collected and analyzed the data; Scott, Pastor Otte and John Lally then drafted the report to the Parish Council. The Parish Council will make the decisions on behalf of the Congregation, with input from Pastor Otte, the ministries and the project team.

So what changes will we see? And what will it cost?

We are looking for a design firm to help us come up with a proposed interior design and, if approved, with a staged implementation plan that makes sense for our church. Cost will depend on choices the congregation will make: repainting, remodeling, renovation, restoration or rebuilding are options with different costs and benefits. As of right now, NO decisions have been made.

What happens next?

A cross-ministry team is being put together by Pastor and Scott, and will be looking at a process for selecting a designer and beginning the planning process with them. A tentative project plan and progress report is available and is on the church website in the Resources section.

How will the design firm be selected?

From the lengthy list of Minnesota architectural firms we will narrow the candidates to a “short list” of firms that meet our criteria: medium size, metropolitan-based firms with extensive experience in church projects; after examining their portfolio of work, the final set of candidates will be invited to present a proposal, list of references and tentative design concept. The decision will be based on the concept, understanding of our needs, cost and project plan.

How will all this be paid for?

As yet, no cost has been incurred. If and when we retain the services of a design professional, we will need funding from either the annual budget or from charitable giving. If and when we begin serious remodeling, some form of financing may be needed – again, depending on our choices.