

Building Program Progress

The Building Committee under the leadership of Irene Clary has been working diligently with the Phoenix Architecture firm to set forth the parameters of our Building Project. The architecture firm agreed to a very low fee of \$10,000 for their initial conceptual design phase. They have given over 300 hundred hours of services and have dedicated several months to our project. We give thanks to God for Erik Peterson and his firm; for giving so much to make this initial phase a success. At the General Assembly on May 19th, a presentation was made by Erik about the major objectives that have been accomplished. The conceptual plans for what we are calling Phase II and Phase III are now available for parishioner review and feedback.

The first objective was deciding on the actual layout and placement of buildings. There are zoning restrictions that affect where buildings can or cannot be built, allowable square footage and height restrictions that are all taken into consideration. At the same time, practical considerations that relate to how parishioners will utilize the buildings and overall flow during Sundays is another factor. No final decisions have been made at this point as far as room utilization but general multi-use possibilities have been identified. In the future, rooms can be re-purposed according to our needs at the time. Along these lines the following represents the overall conceptual design of our building project.

- One building represents Phase II of our master plan. Phase I was the construction of the church. Another building, represents Phase III to be done at some time in the distant future after Phase II has been accomplished.

The first building is a community center building which is considered a priority in the master plan. Phase II is all that will be undertaken during our current building project. On the cover of this Oasis is a rendering that is a “Conceptual Site Plan” of both Phase II and Phase III. A Conceptual Site Plan essentially shows the overall design of our project. Once there is consensus about the overall conceptual site plan from parishioners, the next step for the architect would be to develop a final conceptual design rendering.

Phase I, Phase II & Phase III of Assumption’s Master Plan

Phase II is a 19,263 square foot building that includes the following components. Pictured on this page is a schematic plan for the fellowship hall/community center and the first floor multi-purpose/youth room, kitchen, bookstore and cafe which outline the plaza area.

The community center/fellowship hall is 6,510 square feet with a seating capacity of 412 at tables and includes 500 square feet of storage. The size was determined by parishioner feedback and the site visitations conducted. It would allow for comfortable seating at tables as well as an area for dancing and a portable stage. The community

center would serve our weekly social hour gatherings, Philoptochos Crab Fest, our Feast Day Luncheon and the various other luncheons hosted every year.

The overall vision for the community center includes utilizing it for purposes of reaching out to our neighbors and the greater community of Scottsdale. Every church is by its very nature missionary in its vision. We exist in order to share our faith with others and to invite them to “come and see” the great treasure with which we have been gifted. The community center can accommodate nine hundred in theater style seating and be used as a performing arts venue for special events open to the greater community. This would include things like a concert venue featuring our choir or other Church musicians. The church could hold lectures, theatrical productions, premier inspirational movies and host conferences or SpiritFest in this space as well.

The final consideration in the overall design was having adequate facilities so that we could host festivals on our grounds. There is a 4,000 square foot outdoor plaza which leads from the church to the hall which could seat an additional 250 people. There is also a large outdoor patio which leads out the west side of the community center into a performing arts stage or amphitheater area. An 800 square foot commercial kitchen with an additional 300 square feet for storage and refrigeration is also part of the plan. A 12,753 square foot two-story building attached to the fellowship hall would form the north and south walls of a plaza leading into the community center. This area would include various spaces which still need to be determined how each would be dedicated, however the following dedicated spaces shown on both pages represent the feedback from parishioners and the Building Committee’s site visitations.

- A.) The first floor (6,510 square feet) is the first area visitors and parishioners will see as they come into the court yard area. Based upon parishioner feedback and site visitation the following spaces are being proposed. The labels on the drawings are not finalized but only represent possible uses of these areas. The descriptions on both plans include various possibilities that will not be finalized until we have feedback from parishioners.
- A café is being proposed that would be utilized by parishioners on Sundays. Many churches we visited had incorporated a café in order to accommodate parishioners after services or for parents to gather while children attended church related activities. An additional use of the café would be to offer service on a limited basis weekday morning hours to accommodate the many businesses adjacent to Assumption.
 - Having a bookstore which is available and open to the public is also part of doing outreach to the community. A space on the first floor that can be seen from Cactus Road and across from the café would create an opportunity to share our faith with visitors.

- The surrounding buildings create a court yard plaza much like a “Plaka” in Greece. There are plans to shade the area as well. This would allow for ample room on Sundays for socializing and gathering as a Church family.
- The commercial style kitchen is located so that it can be accessed through the banquet hall as well as the court yard. This would allow for service to be provided in both places when needed.
- A special area designated for youth gatherings was something most churches had that we visited. This area could be used for our GOYA, Jr. GOYA, JOY or dance groups.

It is important that parishioner feedback is brought forth during this period so that the conceptual plans can be finalized by the Building Committee and Parish Council. The second floor area (5,929 square feet) would include office spaces and a multi-purpose parish council/conference/library room. There are some concerns having the offices upstairs and placing them downstairs is still being determined; parishioner feedback is welcomed.

Additional Spaces:

- The remaining rooms can be utilized for adult religious education classes, bible studies, book club, Sunday school, choir, Philoptochos or the youth groups as needed. Rooms will be constructed so that they can be divided when needed.

Phase III: Educational Building is a two story, 16,730 square foot building.

The Educational Building would be needed when future growth and expansion of our community takes place. Having Phase II completed and re-purposing the existing “home” for Youth activities and Sunday school will provide ample space for our present needs. The proposed Educational Building would be located in line with the Church building closer to Cactus Rd. Zoning designates that parking is along the northern side residential walls behind the church. By positioning the Educational Building in line with the Church it allows for expanding our parking capacity from 327 to 375 spaces. Phase III would commence once Phase II was completed and the Church growth would require this future expansion.

- Phase three would be a two story building that is shaped in a cross.
- It would contain six class rooms on the first floor as well as an administration office.

The second floor would have an additional three class rooms as well as a very large multi-purpose room that could be dedicated to youth activities.