



Questions about the Master Plan and Capital Campaign

Following are some questions that were voiced by church members during the weeks before the vote was taken that approved the site plan and capital campaign. They were asked by church members who visited the Conference Room where site plans, pictures, charts, and reports from various committees were made available by the Master Planning Committee, and in discussions/information sessions in Sunday school classes and at church conferences in May. The last two questions have been asked since the vote of approval for the plan and campaign. We hope the information will be helpful to you as you prayerfully consider your part in making possible the accomplishment of the plans.

Why do we need a Senior Adult Wing? Senior adults are a vital part of FBC, both as ministers and as recipients of ministry. According to recent reports, the number of people over 65 in Greenville County will grow from 45,000 in 2000 to 83,000 in 2025. This increase will offer our congregation a great opportunity for expanding the involvement of this increasingly energetic population in mission and ministry. In addition to providing more space for senior adult Sunday school and activities, the wing improves accessibility between Sunday school classes, parking and the sanctuary. An elevator would be included as well as a covered drop-off on the sanctuary entrance level.

What other solutions are provided through the Senior Adult wing? Currently, there is no space in our facility to add new Sunday school classes. By relocating senior adult classes to the new wing, much-needed young-adult classroom space will become available. It will also allow for classes to be grouped for increased fellowship and community. A flexible community gathering room is planned; it will have the advantage of providing meeting space between the size of the present facilities, Fellowship Hall and Parlor, and can be used while closing access to the rest of the building. A prayer room and flower ministry prep room are also planned in the new wing.

What is proposed for the Playground project? The first phase will bring the playground into compliance with existing codes by replacing the deteriorating railroad ties. The second phase will relocate the play area for two-year olds, construct a new playground and learning laboratory for threes, fours and fives, and provide a much-needed playground for first through fifth graders. This second phase is recommended for pursuit of non-member pledges and other revenue sources.

How much parking will be gained as a result of the proposed projects? A total of 121 spaces, of which 68 spaces will be adjacent to the new Senior Adult wing, chapel and sanctuary.

Why is a new gym necessary? The gym and D-100 area are two of the most heavily used spaces in the facility during the week. The gym does not meet even the current needs of our activities ministry; there is no spectator seating, and it is too small to permit multiple team practices or multiple activities simultaneously (e.g., basketball and walking/running). The location of the current gym is also the only appropriate place for fulltime childcare, as code requires direct ground-level access for all classrooms.

What is planned for the new gym facility? Spectator seating for over 300 people, a walking track, multiple basketball courts, new locker rooms and offices.

How will the new gym enhance our ballfield facilities? The project will allow for additional parking and greater accessibility to the ballfields. It will add field restrooms, concessions and storage space that meets code on our current and future needs.

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What about the proposed “Wellness Center” under the gym? After receiving considerable feedback from the congregation, both pro and con, the Master Planning Committee has recommended that we not move forward with that part of the plan at this time.

What parts of the projects are due to code compliance? Three of the church vehicles must be replaced by July 2006, to comply with federal guidelines. The first phase of the playground project addresses railroad tie replacements to meet code. The storage areas in the gym project will address fire code requirements.

Does the flood plain impact any of our buildings? No, the new gym facility is well above the flood plain. In addition, environmentally friendly design is a goal for the entire project.

Why is childcare a need? The responses of current FBC members to the survey by the Child Care Gaps Study Committee revealed a growing need for a full-time child development program which is outside the scope of current FBC programs. These findings are consistent with those of previous FBC long-range plan recommendations dating back to 1988. A number of larger studies of childcare in Greenville have shown the growing need for more affordable, high-quality child development programs in our community.

How would a child development program be a mission and ministry? It would be a ministry to a growing number of families, both FBC members and non-members, who struggle to find a full-time child development program which they can trust for the care and nurture of their children. The program will minister to the children through the provision of a nurturing and loving environment accredited by the National Association of Education of Young Children at the highest standards including classroom size, child-to-teacher ratios, and developmentally appropriate learning curricula. Established child-development providers and consultants have suggested setting fees that generate sufficient revenue to operate the program. A separate study to identify other revenue sources to fund scholarships and/or reduce fees is recommended.

How many children could be reached by the child development program? The plan is for 68 children between the ages of 6 weeks and 4 years.

What does the capital campaign budget include? It includes construction costs, renovation, site work and parking, contingencies, furnishings, cost escalation, and professional services. Allowances have also been made for interest on a construction loan.

Have the additional operational costs for the new facilities been considered? Yes. Individual plans for added space have been studied and include projections for utilities, insurance, maintenance, reserves, custodial and staffing requirements with revenue offsets. Based on current expenses in operating our facilities, we can project an increase of 3-4% of our total mission and ministry plan goal.

How did we decide on moving forward with this plan and the capital campaign to fund it? The deacons received the recommendation and results of the campaign feasibility study from the Master Planning Committee at their April meeting and on May 2 voted its approval to the congregation for discussion. The proposal was discussed at the May 11 church conference and voted on favorably at a called church conference at the end of the 11:00 worship service on May 22. An Executive Committee was appointed, Steering Committee members were chosen and preparation began for a Capital Campaign to begin September 25 and end October 23.

How will the final scope of what we build be determined? The final scope will be determined by the results of the Capital Campaign.