

Meeting our Chart and Compass goals for capacity, finding a way for our facilities to meet our growth needs through 2010 and beyond, has been a wonderful challenge. You may remember when we began assessing our needs, asking focus groups to help us determine our most pressing priorities and our fondest dreams. In conversations with many lay groups and our staff, we visualized a physical site that would make it possible for us to accommodate growth and live into those dreams of expanded programs for children and adults, adequate office space for a burgeoning staff, space for a Center for Public Dialog, improved sound and light in our sanctuary, sufficient space for church fellowship, room for our growing music program, additional parking, and a campus master plan to make all of this possible. We dreamed of making our church home environmentally green, more easily accessible, better organized, and able to provide for all our needs and desires. We are really good at dreaming big!

We were so successful in creating a vision for our future that we now find ourselves having to set priorities for what to do first. Our Capital Campaign, the largest and most successful fund raising effort ever undertaken by this church, set ambitious goals. Many people have worked very hard and given very generously to help make our plans possible, but the present truth is that our reach has exceeded our grasp. The \$7 million earmarked for building and renovation of our facilities will not be enough to complete everything in our master plan.

The City of University Park has approved the plan. The plan is comprehensive, logical and sustainable for future generations. It answers our concerns about room to grow. It achieves density while maintaining the green spaces we love. It presents a welcoming identity to the community while affirming our progressive nature. We don't want to abandon the plan, but we need to figure out which parts of it answer our most pressing needs and which parts can be put off for another day.

ArchiTexas is committed to producing a design that meets our budget and accomplishes as many of our goals as possible. We do not want to compromise on quality, on green building or on meeting our program requirements. We just have to decide which program requirements are most critical and need to be included in Phase One. Now is the time for us to look at our dreams with the hard eye of reality. We are going to build. We hope to do so as quickly as we can, but we are taking some time to reassess.

The Capital Campaign is seeking your participation in reaching the goals that will enable us to make many of our dreams come true. Please respond generously to their requests.

Rich Bernacki, a dedicated member of the congregation, has agreed to serve as our Owners Representative, working with the architects, the general contractor, and the facilities team through the challenging time ahead of us. Rich plans to be present, on site much of the time, through the building of our new and renovated space. He deserves our thanks and support.

Laurel reminds us, that as a church we remain committed to continue to care for one another, to contribute to our larger community, and to improve our curriculum and communication. The Facilities Team is committed to finding the best way to provide the space these goals require.

Steve Crozier, Facilities Team