

**PRESENTATION TO CONGREGATION
GROW FORWARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS
SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2019**

SLIDE 1 - COVER SHEET OF PROJECT

In August of 2018, a Grow Forward Committee was appointed to consider future needs and direction of First Presbyterian Church. Our Committee met almost monthly this past year, discussing the operational and structural needs of the Church. Included were buildings and grounds, programs, staffing and long range needs as well as the relationship and interaction of our Church with the community.

In the May newsletter, we gave an update on the work of the Committee. We had been asked to develop our vision for the Church in one year, in three years and in five years. We merged our individual lists into one, and we also asked the Congregation for your input on what you felt were the needs of the Church. Survey questions were placed in the pews each week and we evaluated the answers received from you. Many of you mentioned the need for an elevator and more parking, and some noted the need for a covered entryway into the Church. The Committee shared those feelings, and we felt a need to create a storage area behind the chancel once the new organ was installed. We were very concerned about the ability of the members and guests to safely access our Church. Safety and accessibility became the key focus of the Committee's work.

SLIDE 2 - NEEDS and CONSIDERATIONS

We approached the Session in March and asked them to fund an analysis by Clark and Leatherwood of how best to meet the needs mentioned. The Session graciously allowed us the \$6,800 requested. We chose Clark and Leatherwood because of their long term relationship with our Church, dating back 20 years, and because we had total trust in that firm and great confidence in their work and recommendations.

The firm proposed using Clark-Lanning Architects in developing a design which would meet the needs we had identified. Over two months, Clark and Leatherwood and Clark-Lanning developed several options as they keyed in on a wonderful plan to meet Church needs. These were presented to the Committee on July 2.

So First, let's look at the suggested structural improvements:

SLIDE 3 - LOWER FLOOR PLAN ADDITON

Under all options, an additional door and covered portico are proposed for the rear of the church. That door would open into a small lobby where one would either enter the elevator or open another door leading into the existing breezeway between the parlor and educational wing on the lower level of the church. This new lobby would create somewhat of an air lock between breezeway and the outside.

SLIDE 4 - UPPER FLOOR PLAN ADDITION

The Clark-Lanning proposal suggests new restrooms, upstairs and down, next to the elevator and behind what is now the Heritage Room.

I would reemphasize that this layout is the same in each of the options that have been offered by Clark and Leatherwood.

The primary difference in each of the Options Clark and Leatherwood submitted concerns the parking areas and the access to Walnut Street. The firm had suggested the possibility of reconfiguring the front parking lot which opens onto Main Street, but this would mean the loss of 4 parking spaces. As it was our goal to MAXIMIZE parking on Church property, the Committee did NOT want to give up any parking spaces on the front lot, so we recommended leaving that lot as it is at present.

The firm also presented two different designs for the parking lot in the back of the Church. One of these had 38 parking spaces and the other 45 spaces. Both designs would require a retaining wall extending into the field below the existing driveway. By extending the wall a bit further, the design would allow a higher number of parking spaces, and the Committee found this to be an attractive idea.

So the Committee recommended to Session that the front parking area remain as it is and the rear parking area design with 45 spaces be selected. This is identified as Option D.

SLIDE 5. OPTION D (OVERHEAD VIEW OF SITE DEVELOPMENT)

As you will see on this slide, the retaining wall curves toward the storm drainage retention basin between the church and the courthouse, and we pick up 7 more spaces by doing so. The driveway connection to Walnut Street would be close to the northern end of our property, approximately where the entry sidewalk was for the Manse that was demolished in June.

Each of the parking areas behind the Church will require a large volume of fill to create a parking lot which is nearly flat. And as I stated, a retaining wall will be required and it extends beyond the current driveway at the rear of the Church. Space will remain between the retaining wall and our neighbor so that we may access the remainder of the rear lot.

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Many of you are likely asking the same questions that the members of the Grow Forward Committee were asking – How is this going to look when finished?

In that regard, we feel Clark and Leatherwood and Clark-Lanning hit a HOME RUN with this design. In fact, maybe back to back home runs.

SLIDE 6: WALNUT STREET ELEVATION

Additions in rear of elevator shaft and portico would tie in well

SLIDE 7: REAR ELEVATION

Elevator Shaft designed to match bell tower

When we were meeting with Larry Clark, he noted that when doing a renovation of this nature, it is the goal of his firm that when the work is done, new additions will tie in so well that they will look like they were a part of the structure from the beginning.

It was the opinion of the Committee that the contractor and design team accomplished this without a doubt.

It was also the opinion of the Committee that these additions to the north side of our church would only enhance the attractiveness of our campus. Since we are on the main entranceway into Town, we want motorists to see an attractive and inviting entryway, perhaps encouraging people to want to enter the Church and see the inside. The Church will have to meet the landscaping guidelines of the Town of Waynesville, but we do not want to hide this attractive facility from residents or visitors to our community.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the recommendation of the Grow Forward Committee that the design concept identified as OPTION D be selected for this project.

These improvements will provide parking for the majority of our congregation on Church property, and we will not have to be as dependent upon the parking lot at Babcock Furniture for our worshippers.

On most Sundays, there are around 40 vehicles of church members or guests using the Babcock parking lot. If you have not noticed, many of our members are not as fast as they once were. Some are a little older. Many have had hip replacements or knee replacements, and crossing Main Street can be somewhat of a challenge. With the popularity of downtown Waynesville and the growth that is occurring in our community, vehicular traffic on Main Street will only increase. This will make it even more of a challenge to cross this street for our congregation parking at Babcock.

The covered portico at the rear of the building will allow worshipers who are either arriving or departing to remain dry. Members or guests may be dropped off right at the door leading to the elevator. Once inside the small lobby, they can either enter the elevator to go to the upper floor or go through the door into the breezeway and then to the parlor, the craft area or the pastor's office or classrooms on the lower level.

In the rear parking area, there will be a number of parking spaces which are reserved for handicap parking. Thus, we are meeting our goal of increasing accessibility for those needing the elevator and we are being attentive to the safety of the members of our congregation by having more of them parking on church property and not having to cross Main Street.

The Grow Forward Committee is excited about the layout and design prepared by Clark-Lanning, and we have enthusiastically recommended it to the Session.

I WANT TO RECOGNIZE MY FELLOW COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

RON MORROW

LINDA COX

STAN BRIGGS

ANDREA CROSKERY

LYNN KELLEY

HOLLY DAVIS

AT THIS TIME, I WILL BE HAPPY TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS!