

# BUILDING CHURCH

*—while building a church—*

OPEN HOUSE COMMENTS • MAY 21, 2006

**T**hank you to all who have shared your thoughts, concerns and questions regarding the design of our new church. All comments since May 21 have been recorded here, and this document will be updated as more come in.

## Section 1: KUDOS

**Everything** looks wonderful and thank you to all of the Building Church members for all of your hard work!!!

**The design** incorporates the tower and spire and angles reminiscent of our present church. Yet it includes a more modern facility appointments. Keep working! Good job.

**Just great.** Love it! Glad you will have a lower floor for Offices, etc.

**Absolutely** beautiful! The church is very much of a traditional feel with a modern design! Let's get started! Thanks.

**Great** job committee!

**Love the exterior** look, how you were able to get the "roundish" worship space and still get the gable-end looks exterior. Great combination of modern and traditional. Invest in a "virtual walk-through" computer build. Think this will be a great benefit to help people get a feel for the interior space. Great work!

**I want** to watch our wonderful choir sing. They are such a happy group and their music is so joyful that it

makes everyone in the congregation happy whether they want to be or not.

## Section 2: STRUCTURE/COSTS

**The sketches** are impressive! No criticisms here. Of all the other churches displayed, I like St. Joseph's best.

**I like the exterior** building materials on Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Brick and stone combo.

**As a person** who has just been told that a steep roof is more costly, could we consider a less expensive roof design?

## Suggestions:

1. PLEASE do not use a slanted floor. It is a problem for seniors, but younger people would also feel the discomfort in the calves of their legs.

2. Consider revising the roof-line. Every valley in a roofline is an opportunity for a leak—an expensive repair.

3. Flat roofs are always a problem — they leak — look at the present cafeteria.

4. Angles and corners aren't necessary for the connecting link — it would be cheaper to do a straight wall.

**Like the green** roof, invest in metal roof.

**I am concerned** about costs (of course). One area I thought could be reconsidered is the roofline. It's gorgeous—but looking at ways to

cut there (rather than cut floorspace) could be considered.

**A few** suggestions mentioned today:

1. Potential funding through federal government if building is designated as an emergency shelter, part of the anti-terrorism legislation. Grant money may be available.

2. Look to incorporate walking trail connecting to city sidewalks as part of the community green space initiative by the City of Columbia.

**Get** infrastructure done now—cost of supplies rising daily.

**Consider** connections to electrical and mechanical in the event of a failure. If standby power is required or budgeted, I would be willing to help get lowest cost. If double throw switches are installed for electrical, I would donate generators to get the buildings operational again as a parish member, if power failed. Only a suggestion as it is easy to install during the construction phase.

**The overall** layout of the parking is *good*. However, these are my concerns:

1. Ratio of ADA (handicap accessible) parking with relationship of total parking.

2. Although the look of the islands in the parking lot is *nice*, they can cause problems with traffic flow and snow removal. All traffic must back out at the end of Mass to leave. Backing amongst pedestrians can be problematic for some parishioners.



3. Raised beds (islands) can also provide for maintenance issues, dependent on type of ground cover used. Additionally, the raised beds will increase the cost of construction.

4. What is the distance from island to island? Depth of parking stalls?

Again, I like the overall concept of the parking lot.

**It appears** that one goal in constructing new worship space is to improve the physical fitness of persons with disabilities. The accessible parking will be located further away than in our present church. — Overall, it looks good and the interior should function well.

**1. Put conceptual** drawings on website as available to review at any time.

2. Easy & quick access to church and school via separate entrances and exits in parking lot.

3. Would like to see exterior view from the road. This is what everyone, parishioners or not, will see. Current exterior views are only from parking lot.

### **Section 3: SPACE ALLOCATION/ LITURGICAL USE**

**Glad** to see all of the space available as meeting rooms. Nice to have adequate restrooms. Looks like a lot of work went into this — nice job!

**ICY meeting** room could be used so we don't have to meet in a basement.

#### **Parish Hall**

- Needs to seat 500 people minimum
- Maybe a few less meeting rooms and bigger hall
- Kitchen needs to be on an outside wall for easier access for deliveries

**In reviewing** the floor plans, I noticed the absence of a mother's area (cry room). As I understand, it is our parish's design to make the new facility welcoming to all. However,

being a mother of a small child, I do need an area to go to when my child is upset (or some mothers need a private area to breast feed or change a diaper, etc.) As I see in the plans, my only option is to exit into the general gathering space, which would eliminate me and my child from participation in mass.

In my opinion, it would be discourteous to my fellow parishioners to remain in my seat, and let my child behave badly. I hope that the committee understands the importance of a parent feeling a part of the congregation yet courteous by removing my upset child and remaining part of the mass. Does this make sense?

P.S. If a mother's area were included in the plan, I would love to see changing tables, rockers, and maybe even a play pen.

**I love** the spaciousness of the gathering spaces and plan for meeting spaces. I like that there's no "cry room," that the "parent room" will likely be set up to discourage Mass-long stays. — It looks like a lot of people have spent a lot of time to research the present church and future plans.

• **Thank you** for including the Parents Alcove — it is necessary.

• Initial design looks very nice and very conducive to everyone being somewhat closer to the altar! Very good!

• We like the roundness of interior design.

**Please make** sure the interior doors between the greeting area and the church entrance are glass so we can bring rowdy children out there, but still feel part of the Mass. Also, please make sure we can hear the Mass from the greeting area (speaker system in greeting space). Everything looks beautiful! Great job!

**Most of the** concepts look great. I have concern that the tabernacle is hidden away. It should be prominent enough to know that a person is in a *Catholic* church.

**First of all**, thank you to the Action Committee for all the wonderful work that is being done on this tremendous undertaking. We know the Baptismal Font is one of the focal points of the Church. And, we know that immersion was done when Jesus was baptized, but we feel that the type of font that is now in Church is beautiful and we all know the symbolism of the pouring of water. Please don't eliminate the small holy water fonts at all the entrances.

With so many depictions of Mary, hopefully there will be several in the stained glass windows, statues, etc.

Again, thank you for all the wonderful work going into this project. You're in our prayers.

### **Section 4: QUESTIONS**

**Have you** considered a presentation by the architects and committee to present "why we're making the decisions we are?"

**If PSR** continues to be held on Sunday, will PSR be held in the new church?

**If the capital** campaign and building loans total less than the current design and site prep cost, what areas can be cut/reduced without decreasing the total seating (if any)? Is the cost per square foot already near the minimum?

**If the parish picnic** takes place at the new facility, where would this be positioned? Wherever this is placed on the grounds we would need electrical service there for lights, bandstand, beer wagons, etc. — Thanks for your time and hard work!

