

Minutes September 2, 2014
Building Committee

Attending: Sr. Warden Claverie, Jr. Warden Miller, Mary Withington, Gordon Boyd, Mark Parobeck.
Guests: Jack Waite and Shannon Brown, architects

After introductions, a brief review of the parish was provided, including membership, worship style, etc. Mr. Waite stated that in his experience, a new or revitalized facility can have a transformative effect on a parish, including, in Bethesda's case, our relationship to downtown Saratoga Springs. Ms. Brown, who had reviewed the "discernment record" of 2013, asked about the priority of various elements requested in the house and ministry meetings, such as child care, in the New Parish House (NPH).

Mr. Waite asked about use of the undercroft of the existing and NPH, and whether improvements there could add significant usable space. It was agreed that a thorough walk-through is needed by them.

Mr. Waite and Ms. Brown reviewed the status of Bethesda's property concerning historic registration and protection. The church building is on the National Register. The balance of the site is not included in the city's historic district. The combination is considered to be ideal for the parish's ability to attract grants for work in the church, and to exercise maximum flexibility in the design on the new building.

Ideas for programming the new building were discussed, entrance, courtyard, uses on first floor, 2nd floor, availability to outside groups or "partners." Mr. Waite recommended considering the maximum height of the NPH to be at the level of the present battlements on the church building, i.e. well below the roof line, so that the church itself remains the dominant feature of the property. These ideas were well received.

Parish Meeting, 7:15 p.m. (after Mass) Tuesday September 30. Agenda will include introduction of Mr. Waite and Ms. Brown, and a brief presentation by them as to the coming steps in gathering input from the parish. Other agenda items for that meeting include the Mission Survey, a presentation of the capital and operating budgets, briefing on the Rector search, and the calendar for the capital projects.

Grants for Church Building. Mr. Waite will provide the committee with a template letter to apply for funding from the New York Landmarks Conservancy for a "condition study" of the existing church building. The study will identify the priority rehabilitation and restoration needs, so that an application for funding of such work can be submitted for award in early 2015. The Committee determined to have the letter ready to send to the NYLC by the next meeting.

Next meeting: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday September 16. In the Parish House.

Respectfully submitted,
Gordon Boyd