

BEYOND THE BUILDING FAQ'S

To
ECOB Congregation

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

From
Pastor Brian
Beyond the Building
Team

Within this document, you will find some updates from the Beyond the Building Team (Building Team) concerning what they have been working on. Through various input sessions, conversations, surveys, and lots of prayer, we are excited to share this update and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) with you. We look forward to continued dialogue and boldly moving forward in Christ.

Re
Building Process Update

REMEMBER THE PAST

In 1973, through significant time of prayer, planning, and then moving forward, the congregation of the Ephrata Church of the Brethren (which was located downtown) was obedient to God's call to relocate. They discovered that this location and this facility would enable them to best serve the community for years to come, and thus, this current property was built and put into use. This step of faith was not without its challenges, legal battles, financial risks, and struggles to maintain congregational unity. Even during those struggles, the congregation still pressed forward with God's vision and dream. We are so very grateful for those pioneers, dreamers, and faithful disciples for moving forward in their call from God; to purchase land in the middle of a corn field, to provide a space for ministry to happen, and to have vision for new possibilities in worship and service. God has blessed their obedience to His call!

ACKNOWLEDGE THE PRESENT

We are currently at a crossroads with our facility. It is an outdated facility that needs major infrastructure updates to keep it viable for ministry; however, it is the ministry and the vision God is calling us to that is truly driving this project. We have felt and discerned that God wants to use this facility for something more in this community and deepen our relationship with him and with one another. In pursuit of God's will, we have spent significant time in prayer and in conversation as a congregation on what is to be done. As we desire to be obedient to the strategic plan that God has called us to, we are at a good place and excited to see how God will use this facility and congregation to serve this community into the future.

Ephrata Church of the Brethren

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

WHERE ARE WE IN THIS PROCESS?

Late last year, the congregation received 2 letters sharing about the process of the Nehemiah Project Team. This process has been one that has yielded wonderful information as to how we, as a congregation, will move forward with our facility. If you remember, the “Define” phase intention was to seek input, have conversations, and connect with the congregation in its vision for our facility. We gathered information from home meetings, congregational information sharing sessions and a survey. We then spent time diving into the answers and visions the congregation gave us, came up with a very general scope of work, and then had more large and small group conversations about the specifics that the congregation would like to see done.

We have now moved from the “Define” phase to the “Design” phase. From those earlier conversations, we were, as a team, unanimously able to land on the building blocks that have been outlined earlier in this FAQ. We will start to work with a design/build firm to begin what, we feel, is an exciting next step to our process. As we move forward, we have developed smaller teams to address multiple pathways forward. Every member of the team has been placed, based on their gifts, on these smaller working groups in order to accomplish the goals set before us. The Build Team will work with the design/build firm on the actual process to design the facility.

The Communications Team will work at making sure the process and outcomes are fully shared with the congregation.

The Finance Team will work within our bylaw parameters in order to discern the best steps forward for acquiring funds to make sure the project can be completed and that we can remain fiscally responsible.

In the near future, we anticipate seeking the Leadership Team and congregational approval on the financial parameters of this project. This parameter will give authority to secure funding for the updates on the facility that we believe God is calling us to.

We recognize that 2019 is going to be an exciting year, and we are ready to move forward boldly with our mission to connect to, grow in, live out, and reflect the transformative power of Jesus – not just for ourselves, but for our world. We are ready for the journey and pray that you are ready to join us.

WHAT HAS THE TEAM DISCERNED FROM GOD'S LEADING AND CONGREGATIONAL INPUT?

We are excited as we continue to sense God's leading through the discernment process of this team with the help of our congregation. Through prayer, team discussion, congregational table discussions and a congregational survey, several large building blocks have been identified as priorities. As each of these large building blocks were evaluated and addressed, a natural domino effect occurred which led to other building blocks being identified as needing attention. Below is a list of the large building blocks as well as the other necessary building blocks that we have, along with congregational input, identified and discerned as the best way forward. We are inspired and encouraged by the obedience and visioning of the congregation from 45 years ago and we pray that God will bless our efforts to be good stewards while we discern His will for this facility and how it might be used for ministry in the next 45 years.

LARGE BUILDING BLOCKS

- HVAC – We have reached consensus to replace our current HVAC system and are continuing to explore all options (geothermal, solar, gas, oil).
- FELLOWSHIP HALL – We have reached consensus to relocate our main entrance to the center of the current Fellowship Hall, flowing from the main parking lot and into a space that will serve as our central connecting space for the congregation and large group space for community use.
- SANCTUARY – We have reached consensus to re-orient the sanctuary 180 degrees by relocating the main entrance to what is currently the baptistry area, thus enabling a natural flow from the central connecting space into the worship space. We will also update flooring, lighting, seating, media, and sound which will provide a creative, flexible and sacred space for all styles of corporate worship experiences.

- ATMOSPHERE – We have reached consensus that flooring, painting, and lighting will be updated and/or replaced throughout the facility.
- KidMin – We have reached consensus to encourage dual utilization of space for KidMin and the Children’s Center by revamping and revitalizing the rooms and hallway of the current Children’s Center and adding a second floor, pending engineering approval.
- BATHROOMS – We have reached consensus to update all bathrooms.
- KITCHEN – We have reached consensus to update the kitchen in its current location to continue to meet our hospitality needs.

OTHER BUILDING BLOCKS

- LIFE GROUP ROOMS – We have reached consensus that the hallway (currently rooms 100-108) will be redesigned and used for Life Group and / or meeting rooms.
- OFFICES – We have reached consensus to consolidate all offices, relocating them into the existing space between the current office entrance and existing lobby/Narthex.
- SIGNAGE – We have reached consensus that signage, both interior and exterior, will be evaluated and updated.
- PARKING – We have reached consensus to evaluate and adjust the traffic flow of our parking lot. Additionally, parking lot design, asphalt repairs, and lighting options will be considered.
- ADA – We have reached consensus to consider all feasible and affordable ADA upgrades to better serve those with physical limitations and/or challenges.

HOW WILL THIS PROJECT HELP US REACH OUT IN MISSION TO CONNECT.GROW.LIVE.RADIATE THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF JESUS?

The team has been working hard to remain focused that our vision (to see the Church, growing in oneness with Jesus Christ and each other, living out the Great Commission, through equipping and supporting the saints), our mission (Connect-Grow-Live-Radiate), and our purpose (living with Jesus so others will know Him) are at the core of this project. It is also extremely important to connect this project to the ECOB Strategic Plan the Leadership Team developed and the congregation affirmed in 2018. Below are the various ways in which the strategic plan and the Nehemiah Project

(Building Program) will connect. The numeric references are from the official strategic plan document.

- 1.1.1 Congregation – Create opportunities for various age groups, ministry/life groups, and life stages within our congregation to participate in connect events that specifically encourage fellowship within the body.
- 1.1.3 Congregation – Enhance and create opportunities for better congregational communication.
- 1.3.1 Develop and enhance communication tools to share the news/mission/vision of Jesus’s work at and through ECOB (online, print, news, banners, mission moments, graphics or visuals around the church, invite cards, mailings, yard signs, float in parade, etc.)
- 1.3.2 Utilizing the church facility, create visuals that share the vitality of ECOB
- 2.1.1 Deepen our partnership with the Children’s Center through implementing various “touch points” with that mission
- 2.1.2 Encourage a deeper sense of welcome in the life and ministries of ECOB
- 2.1.4 Enhance and expand our Front-Line ministry
- 2.2.2 Enhance and expand KidMin
- 2.2.3 Create a Young Adult ministry
- 2.2.4 Enhance and expand Student ministry
- 3.1.1 Update our current facilities to engage both congregation and community needs (reworking office space, separate space for KidMin, open spaces for gathering/fellowship, repurpose gym for alternate use, etc.)
- 3.1.3 Partner with local organizations to develop a utilization plan for ECOB facilities
- 3.1.6 Create facilities, structures, and ministries that provide for the safety of all ages
- 4.2.2 Local – Hold 2 events/year that create opportunities to serve the community
- 4.2.4 Local – Deepen ECOB’s relationship with local schools, their staff, families, and students through various “touch points” and ministries.

WITH THE MISSION IN MIND, HOW ARE WE CONSIDERING DISCIPLES OF EVERY AGE THROUGH THIS BUILDING PROJECT?

We consider it a huge blessing from God to have strong representation of 5 generations within the ECOB family. Each age group is valued and has an important role in the life of this body. As we support and encourage one another to be radical

disciples of Christ, it is extremely important to our team to consider the various needs of every age group and how the building will best enable each of us to connect to our mission. With much more to be discovered and thought through, here are some building topics that have already been part of our consideration.

- Connecting / Fellowship across generational divides.
- Security for all ages, especially for KidMin and Children's Center.
- Spaces that maximize the growth opportunity for every discipleship life stage.
- A sacred worship space that is sensitive to our stylistic diversity and that represents our desire to pursue and celebrate God's presence.
- A facility with a user-friendly foot print to help all age groups navigate through the building with ease.
- A facility that is sensitive to any physical challenges or limitations that may be present among us.

If there are other ways that we can be considering the needs of your specific discipleship life-stage, please share them with any member of the building team.

WHAT HAS THE LEADERSHIP TEAM DONE AS PART OF THIS PROCESS?

One of the many roles of the Leadership Team (LT) is to continue to pray through, communicate, and implement the vision of the Ephrata Church of the Brethren. As the LT began receiving more and more concerns related to the building, they discerned that a group of people needed to be brought together from various services and demographics to consider and address these issues. The purpose of the team, now called the Nehemiah Project Team or Building Team, is to discern what God is calling ECOB to do in relation to its physical property, to walk with the congregation in communication of that discernment, and then to work with a design/build firm to implement the vision God has for us.

The Leadership Team, at each of its meetings is getting an update from the team and making approvals to the teams' progress and process as needed. The most recent, and important part of the process has been the Leadership Team approving the overall scope of work that will go out to all the potential design/build firms. This scope of work and Request for Proposal (RFP) will allow these firms the ability to share with us what can and cannot be done, how they will work with us in the process

of developing actual drawings, and walk with us through the entire construction process.

The Leadership Team will be in close process with the Nehemiah Project Team (Building Team) throughout the next few months with both design and financial considerations. If you have any questions about the Leadership Team's role in this process, please feel free to contact the LT Chair, Trish Schlegel.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS FOR THE CONGREGATION?

We believe that God has a specific plan for our future, and we desire to align with his will for this building and how it might serve in growing mature disciples of Christ while serving this community.

- We encourage you to celebrate how God has been faithful to us over the past 45 years in this building and give thanks for the obedience, determination, and sacrifices made by those who have gone before us.
- We encourage you to ask any questions that come to your mind throughout this process as we desire to be as transparent as possible.
- We encourage much prayer as we together take each step forward toward the vision God has cast upon us.
- We encourage you to prayerfully consider how you can help this project become a reality through your finances. We want to be sure that our overall giving to congregational ministries and mission does not suffer during this time. We are going to ask the congregation, at some point, to make an additional sacrifice (above and beyond your tithe) to help see God's vision for this facility to become a reality. Please be in prayer about how you and your family can participate.

THE NEHEMIAH PROJECT TEAM (BUILDING TEAM) MEMBERS?

Communications

Dean Sensenig
Marty Wenger
Katy Roark

Finance

Sarah Young
Joanne Eshelman

Build Out

Steve Oberholtzer
Keith Hall
Kristen Boyer
Kaye Enck

Leadership

Martin Kyper
Pastor Brian
