

Spirit & Space Team Report – January 2019

Tydings of comfort and joy from the Spirit & Space Team to you and your family in the New Year! To keep informed of our progress or to access past *Tydings* articles and other info, check out our **Spirit & Space link on CPC's Web site.**

On November 18th members of the congregation gathered after worship for a charrette – an architectural brainstorming session – with architects Elizabeth Murphy and Lauren Burge. It was a delightful opportunity to express our ideas about how we might become a more welcoming church to those in our community. While munching on sandwiches, pasta salad, chips and cookies; Jerry Norton, Chair of the Spirit & Space Team, presented an overview of how the Team, up to that date, had re-imagined specific concepts about church worship, service and space.

The architects then directed attendees to their tables where each person was given prints of our church's layout by floor, as well as colored pencils and markers. We were instructed to consider our own re-imagining as to how the church might be redesigned, and then reflect those thoughts directly onto the prints provided. We were told to “dream big”, and be limited only by the boundaries of our own imaginations, because all ideas are useful. And although not all ideas would be adopted by the architects, we were told that one idea might lead to a thought that they CAN use. What fun we had modifying the prints with our suggestions...diagrams, pictures, layouts and notes! The architects were quite pleased with the treasure trove of ideas expressed. We're certain they will be considered as the architects work through their process, all the while respecting the historical character of our church home. We anxiously await their initial, preliminary concept drawings!

The other interesting exercise that afternoon was to express our individual priorities for the following list of pre-defined architectural attributes to be considered in any re-design of our church: Welcoming, Inspirational/Peaceful, Comfortable, Accessible, Functional, Flexible, Beautiful/Artful, and Historical/History. Attendees added “Quality Choir Music” and “Music Program” to the list. Each of these attributes was printed on a sheet of paper mounted on the walls surrounding us. Using six sticky dots provided for each person, we were asked to affix them to the

attribute sheets of our choice...all six on one, or split among multiple attributes per our desired priorities. The purpose of the exercise was to quantify for the architects what is relevant and important to us about our church space.

In order by priority (number of dots), the result of the exercise to determine preferred Architectural Attributes is:

1. Accessible – 61
2. Welcoming – 54
3. Functional – 41
4. Inspirational/Peaceful – 37
5. Quality Choir Music/Music Program – 32
6. Historical/History – 31
7. Flexible – 29
8. Beautiful/Artful – 25
9. Comfortable – 6

Interesting, don't you think?!? More later!

The Spirit & Space Team