

opening hearts & minds

charleswood united church

April 9, 2009

This document is the "Opening Hearts and Minds" Capital Campaign Committee Report summarizing the inputs and ideas from the Town Halls and Home Visitations as well as a few Q's & A's. The Campaign Committee has forwarded this document to council so that necessary actions and follow up can be initiated.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN ASKED AT THE HOME MEETINGS AND TOWN HALLS

-1- HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE NEW ADDITION?

Sound needs to be improved – (every group visited stated this)

Management of space: create a committee for this purpose

One person in charge of renting process

One person in charge of publicity

Aesthetically well done

Good entrance drop off/drive thru

Gives us more space for gatherings

Any thought of having partitions/room dividers

Kitchen is great as we have the ability to provide meals

There is room for playing games

Need stage – collapsible. In the interim look into different set ups of room i.e. put entertainment into middle of room with chairs around the perimeter.

Washrooms bright and clean

New coat rooms good

Kitchen is good

Window – stained glass is beautiful. Window can't be seen from street level. Lighting needed, some type of protection should be placed over the stained glass window.

Exterior impressive

Choir room larger and not cramped

New nursery is better for children and parents

Basement windows are great

Liquor licensing – how does that work

Wonderful, but will it be costly to maintain such a large space

More inviting to newcomers

Color coordination of walls is very nice

Need dimmer switches to soften the lighting

New addition has built excitement and focus in the congregation. There is improved opportunity for fellowship.

Has brought new people into the church, reached out to the community

Has given us more space which is especially good for the children
 Encourages visiting and lingering after the service with the open space. Suggest we have coffee after the 11 am service.
 Security for large groups evenings and weekends
 Rental ranging from in house, non-profit groups and social events. Make sure charging enough.
 Groups are worried about damaging the walls. Could mats or canvass sheeting etc. be hung to protect the painted surface? Also we now have space for musicals and space to use for rehearsals

-2- WHAT DO YOU SEE THE FUTURE OF THE FACILITY BEING FOR YOU, THE CONGREGATION AND THE COMMUNITY?

What is the church's Mission and Vision? Plan has to be well thought out.
 Let others know that space is available for renting, advertise, permanent sign on front lawn.
 Tours for other churches, groups. Need volunteers/paid staff to handle tours, rentals.
 Put notice in Observer seeking ideas for use of church hall
 Hire part time staff to handle weekend events.
 Use facility during the day for business meetings/lunches
 Expand upon Youth worship, music
 Get a caterer to look after food.
 Monthly luncheons after church to strengthen community feeling
 Virtual tour on website
 Need to name the new rooms – have a contest? Charge to enter a name \$1.00.
 Young people NEED to be asked what they would like to see as they are the future
 The new hall could be used as a gym for sports- e.g. badminton, floor hockey and other group games. Basketball and volleyball may not be possible as these could cause damage to the facility.
 Could have a weekly games night for all youth in the community (drop in). CUC youth could supervise.
 Like the idea of a regular movie night
 Have more family oriented events- mixing all ages in a board game night or movie night
 Opportunity to reach out to underprivileged areas like Westdale subsidized housing area
 If we had a board game/card night we could make it intergenerational and mix young and old. This would allow each group to get to know each other better.
 Lower hall still available for rental
 Will need caretaking staff for weekend activities
 Paving whole parking lot

-3-Activities that could be held

Could raise funds for equipment through a car wash (in the spring) and a talent show.
 Need sports equipment. Start a badminton club
 Youth drop in center – movies, games
 Coffee House with live entertainment
 Evening bible study
 Have a “skills day” such as gardening, sewing, toy building, crafts etc
 Luncheon with College/careers and Seniors
 Variety nights/ Talent show
 Music Festival with skills being taught
 Angel Tea (angel food cake or strawberry social)
 Antique Road Show event

Celebrate Robbie Burns Day with special music, dance, foods, games, activities. As well celebrate other cultural days.

Consider making the new addition a Folklorama site (may be need with closing of Vasa Lund).

Fashion Shows

Leisure Guide Activities

Have a “youth day” and join other area churches together for fun and games

Have a New Year’s Eve event for families

Have a supper (like the fall supper) in the winter. Transport seniors to the event.

Celebrate Manitoba’s 140th birthday in May

Rent space for Election Poll stations

Bridal showers, teas, anniversaries

Annual meetings for condos owners, Senior societies

Book sales

Room to have another church use space. Such as Oasis

Walking Group

Grade 9 grad

Blood donor, flu clinic and other health clinics

Additional Comments/Notes

World Day of Prayer was a great success this year because other churches were included in the event. Showed good community sharing of resources.

Youth group should not be getting “bumped” from their space when another group wishes to use an area. (This is happening too often)

Youth room needs to be open to us on Sunday nights. Often the door is locked and no one has a key.

Youth has their own dedicated meeting room in the lower hall (good). May consider moving to the loft as we grow in numbers.

Youth group is committed to CUC. We are here and involve ourselves in all church activities as often as possible.

There is a bad smell coming from Michael’s old office that needs to be looked into.

Costumes from the musicals need to be stored in a dry room. Currently many of the costumes are damaged from mold.

Q's & A's Regarding Opening Hearts and Minds Campaign

April 7, 2009

Q: How were specific repairs or improvements determined in the project? What about additional items such as the sound system or stage?

A: CUC was working to a specific budget and choices had to be made regarding priorities. In the case of repairs, some, such as rebuilding the chimney were included in the project despite being unplanned at the commencement of the project. In general, when considering new features, must haves took priority over nice to haves. The Opening Hearts and Minds Campaign is intended to address this list of additional items.

Q: The facility is very nice. How close did the final cost come to budget?

A: Early in the process, a round number of \$1.5 million was discussed widely. The final approved budget (two years later) based on firm estimates from contractors was \$1.83 million, including GST. This increase was largely due to the one year delay in construction resulting from slower than anticipated pledges. Also, CUC added in a few features (equipment, lighting, parking lot expansion, etc). The contractors came in on budget. Additional costs not related to construction included: repairs to the original building, fundraising campaign expenses, allowance for furniture and fit up and building appraisal. This brought the final project cost to a little over \$1.9 million. Throughout the process, care was taken to strive for an end result that the congregation finds to be both functional and a source of pride.

Q: Are specific new programs planned for any of our community groups?

A: To date, there has been keen interest and good use of the new facility. Formal programs are driven by resources - CUC has added a wonderful facility and the Opening Hearts and Minds Campaign is intended to generate funds and volunteer support to enhance programming. Volunteer leadership is critical to initiating new programs.