

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Master Planning Process

June 9, 2018

Frequently Asked Questions

(Adapted from WPC Town Hall FAQ)

1. What is the Master Planning process about?

The Master Planning Steering Committee (MPSC) and its subcommittees has been tasked with developing a conceptual plan to address our current property challenges as well as anticipated facility needs over the next 10 years to maintain the ministries that WPC supports. The MPSC has reached the point (May 20, 2018) of sharing the initial presentation with the covenant partners for input and comments.

2. What “problems” are we trying to address?

- a. The recent current and projected growth of our congregation, especially young children.
- b. Growth of our children’s’ Sunday School
- c. Growth of Day School student body.
- d. Space constraints of adult classrooms and hallways.
- e. Parking Coordination

3. How is the recommendation for new construction connected with our church Mission Statement?

In 2015-16, WPC covenant partners, staff, and ministers participated in a program (TAG) to determine strategic objectives of the church for the next 5-10 years. These strategic objectives were the overarching driver of the master planning process.

WPC Strategic Objectives:

- Young Adults (twenty and thirty-year olds)
- Youth and children
- Smaller Communities
- Marriage and Parenting
- Church Planting

4. Are there plans to build a new fellowship hall or expand the sanctuary?

No. If meals are needed to be served above capacity of the expanded fellowship hall, the plan would be to serve those meals in the gym.

5. What is the Neighborhood Relations Committee (the “NRC”)?

The NRC’s job description as stated in its charter dated August 2, 2017 is:

1. *Approach all tasks prayerfully.*
2. *Create goodwill with the affected neighbors and the greater neighborhood association.*
3. *Work with the Building Design/Programs to address neighborhood objections to all planned special use request.*
4. *Draft the special use request and work through the administrative process to gain final city approval.*

6. What have been the trends in attendance over the last few years?

The congregation of Westminster has averaged 3% annual growth over the last 10 years.

Our attendance on Sundays in 2017 was 513 in our 3 worship services. The Day School (preschool) during the week currently has 130 students and has reached maximum capacity. The Day School is planning for a maximum student enrollment of 180 within the next 10 years.

7. What proposals for building changes are being considered?

Input was gathered from the church staff and all committee members by the MPSC and incorporated into these conceptual plans. Initial conceptual drawings of the proposed facilities were presented for all covenant partners for initial review on May 20, 2018, and the MPSC and its subcommittees are now asking for comments and input from them. A new Children's Wing is the major proposal.

8. Are the concept plans really the final plans?

Absolutely not. This is just step one of the covenant partner review process. These are simply draft plans to allow our congregation to have input in working toward a final plan.

9. What is the timeline?

Input from Town Hall Meetings will be incorporated into the draft conceptual plans and will be discussed with the congregation in September. Fundraising will commence in January 2019 for six months. The Architect will begin working July 2019 on design/ build construction drawings and a contractor will be selected. Construction plans will be completed by December 2019 and submitted for construction permitting 1st quarter 2020.

10. Do we need additional property?

Several designs have been studied by the Building/Design Subcommittee and without moving the church office to 112 Pineville Road the new children's' education wing would reduce the current playground by 50%. Purchasing 112 Pineville Road and relocating the current church office there will allow for a new playground with additional green space (approximately 12,000 sq ft) at the current office location. If the Congregation approves a plan requiring the purchase of the 112 Pineville Road, the "change of use" will be presented to the City's Planning Department and Board of Zoning Appeals for approval along with approval for any new construction. The Neighborhood Subcommittee along with the architect and Building/Design Subcommittee will make presentations with a visual design of the master plan, conceptual building renderings, along with a detailed landscape plan, which hopefully will address any major concerns/issues of both the city and the neighbors.

11. How is the Fernwood neighborhood, specifically residents of Pineville and Emory, likely to take these construction projects?

The Neighborhood Committee is working very hard to stay engaged with the Fernwood Neighborhood Association. Once these conceptual plans are presented to the congregation at the town hall meetings, follow up will be done with the neighborhood. Once a final plan is approved in September by the Congregation, additional detailed designs, layouts, renderings and landscape plans will be developed to share with the neighborhood and the city showing exactly what we plan to do.

12. How will parking be affected during construction and after?

The lower parking lot at Spartanburg High School will be utilized along with our current parking along the street. Parking will be at a premium and the lot at the high school must be used to increase available parking. The present plan does not include a significant increase in on-site parking, as available space is limited. We hope to better organize "green" angle parking on Pineville and Emory Roads. "Parking Ushers" can identify open spaces in real time to direct people on site. We will continue to place parking cones in adjacent neighbors' yards to avoid parking on grass and single lane situations.

13. What if we outgrow our existing and our new space?

A 10-15 year planning benchmark is being used by the Building/Design Committee, which accounts for projected future growth of Westminster.

14. What if we don't move forward with these recommendations? Is there a plan?

Our fund-raising effort and required governmental approvals will determine what priorities will be built. The plans are to build only what we can afford and try not to do everything at once unless we have the pledges/money to support the expansion

15. How can I communicate with the Neighborhood Relations Committee?

Contact the NRC chair or one of the pastors by emailing the church at wpc@wpcspartanburg.org or calling the church office at 864-585-4186.