

## FUMCR Proposed Ministry Expansion

*Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us; glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus for all generations, forever and always. Amen.*

***Ephesians 3:20-21***

### **History**

First United Methodist Church Richardson has stood in 4 different locations and buildings. "The history of this church," says Dr. Oliphint, senior pastor, "reflects the faith, optimism and determination of its congregation over the years and serves as an important reminder that to endure, a church must be much more than just a building." In 1999 FUMCR realized that growth had flattened due to crowded classrooms and inadequate facilities, including parking, and a Master Plan was approved to move our meeting place to the current 22.5 acre site. In the spring of 2006, we completed Phase 1 of our Master Plan and moved into our new campus and began worship. Phase 1 was 120,000 square feet and included the Bartula Family Life Center, the Education Center and the current Sanctuary Complex which includes Shawver Welcome Center, John Ogden Fellowship Hall and an interim Chapel for a total cost of \$23 million. In the Fall of 2007 we immediately identified the need for increased education space and the need to reduce our debt. The addition of Mays Hall, 15,000 square feet of Education Space and a reduction in debt completed Phase II in 2010.

### **Strategic Vision Plan**

The Mission Statement of First United Methodist Church Richardson is: With open hearts and minds, we Welcome people for Christ, Grow people in Christ and Serve people with Christ. To ensure that FUMCR strategically lives into our mission, in 2010 we adopted a Strategic Vision that defines what we believe God is calling us to be in the next 5 years. Our church leadership ensures that this vision is an integral part of any decision-making process and has made great progress toward accomplishing the goals set forth in the plan. The full Strategic Vision plan can be found on our website.

The proposed facilities expansion addresses Phase III from the original Master Plan. It is consistent with our vision and directly addresses its major components. Our vision calls for us to offer additional worship venues, enhance our youth, college and young adult ministries, identify and leverage partnerships and retain, appreciate and provide for the best church staff. The vision is also very specific in the expectation that we will examine, assess and enhance building space in order to continue to have world class ministries.

A Facilities Task Force was appointed by the Church Council to begin this process of evaluating our Ministry needs in the spring of 2013. Nine different teams made up of members across the church researched and discovered several consistent needs for our expanding ministries.

### **Ministry Center**

The proposed building plans for First United Methodist Church Richardson include a multifaceted two-story Ministry Center in the middle of campus, a connection center for people on Sunday and throughout the week, which will house a new worship venue, large meeting space, administrative offices and a café. Inviting and open, the more contemporary design featuring glass with brick accents will complement the surrounding brick buildings and clearly beckon visitors and members alike into this new central entry.

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### **Celebration Hall**

Housed on the south side of the building, Celebration Hall will have the capacity to host a 500 person banquet and function as a central gathering place with open conversation areas during other times. The gym is currently our only large banquet area. Hosting conference-wide events such as the Large Church Initiative (LCI) and Annual Conferences require large, centralized banquet areas. During peak seasons the gym transforms from a gym to a banquet hall as many as 3 times a day. Our Family Life Ministry has become a vibrant ministry and outreach in the community, frequently bringing as many as 1,000 people a week to our campus through the Young Adult Intramural League on Tuesday nights; Men's Basketball on Thursday nights, 16 Summer & Spring Break Camps for children and a new partnership with the YMCA and First Baptist for youth basketball & soccer. Celebration Hall, a dedicated area, will allow the gym in the BFLC to remain a gym and open our Family Life ministry up to expanded outreach.

### **Café**

A new proposed feature is a Café which will provide a place for coffee, conversation and light lunch for those meeting others on campus. A designated walkway will allow the Café to utilize the existing kitchen which will be expanded to allow for larger prep space and increased use associated with the Café.

### **Worship and Arts Center**

The north side of the Ministry Center will house a Worship and Arts Center that can be used as another worship venue on Sunday mornings as well as concerts, plays and a variety of other programs. A recent article explained that 10 of the top 25 fastest growing United Methodist churches were entirely "contemporary" or "modern" in worship style, and none of the top 25 were entirely traditional in worship style. As our parish changes, and especially with the anticipated growth in the Richardson Community underway at the George Bush and 75 Corridor, to achieve our goal of 20% worship participation growth, this venue allows for the creation of other worship opportunities in the future.

### **Administrative Offices**

Clergy and Staff offices will move from the BFLC to the second floor of the Ministry Center. As people enter the building and proceed to the centralized Welcome Desk, they will be directed to the stairs or elevators to the second floor. Our strategic vision plan states that we will retain, appreciate and provide for the best church staff. It's important to develop and nurture this valuable resource and one of the key components of this is ensuring a comfortable work environment. At this time, we have 60 staff members who currently share 37 Offices and Cubical Spaces. If you've ever walked through our church office space you will see folks who office in converted closets, 3 people to an office and conference rooms converted to a room of cubicles. And, as you may know if you've ever tried to meet with staff at the church, there is no conference room in the office area. The proposed office and meeting space on the second floor will offer sufficient office space for current and future staff as well as privacy for members coming to meet with a pastor or people in need who come to the church.

### **Youth Facilities**

When the clergy and staff offices move to the second floor of the ministry center, it provides additional space in the BFLC which will allow us to remodel to better serve our youth. The youth ministry has tripled in size since moving onto this campus. Worship and programming could be better facilitated by having a dedicated youth space that is not utilized as a main thoroughfare. Instead of the second floor lounge area and south hallway opening to the gym below, the walls will be pushed out to the current railing, creating an enclosed

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space for the lounge and gathering space as well as a new worship space. The proposed remodel calls for taking the classrooms, upstairs on the south side of BFLC and converting them into a large 250 seat designated worship space with moveable seating. The first floor former office space will most likely be converted into a combination of Youth and Family Life offices as well as classroom space.

### Music Suite

In addition to the ministry areas addressed by the Ministry Center and remodeled youth area in the Bartula Family Life Center, our facilities task force is proposing the building of a new Music Suite. Music is vital to every worship experience and people are taught and their faith is deepened through music. Historians believe that John Wesley's Methodist movement would have gone nowhere without the hymns of his brother, Charles. We know that our Music Ministry frequently reaches out into the community, living out our mission to welcome, grow and serve people through Christ. Music represents the very building blocks of servant hood and it is often by leading worship through music that our members gain the confidence to lead in other areas. Our Music Ministry has grown to over 400 members and is in need of a new rehearsal hall, music storage space, children's choir rooms, robing area and office space. The Children's Choirs and Hand bells currently robe in the halls of the Education building and have no place to practice on Sunday mornings without displacing a Sunday school class. The Chancel Choir rehearses in Ogden Fellowship Hall because this group is too large for our rehearsal hall. The proposed rehearsal hall will be acoustically sound and allow all choir parts to adequately hear each other, something that is necessary and currently missing for our musicians who lead and teach us each week through music.

### Imagine

We have seen significant growth in our ministries as we have lived into the strategic vision God placed before us and maximized our new campus space. Of course, this rapid growth puts pressure on our physical plant, so it's time we evaluate our next steps. As Dr. Oliphint likes to say, "Facilities facilitate ministry."

As we have grown as a church, we have not only increased the impact of our volunteer outreach, but we have also increased our outreach giving by 24% since 2009. We have an opportunity to transform our community by the actual ministry within the building and the ways we can facilitate ministry beyond our walls.

The theme of this campaign, Imagine, is based on the Apostle Paul's prayer found at the end of the third chapter of his letter to the Ephesians:

Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us; glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus for all generations, forever and always. Amen.

- Ephesians 3:20-21

The apostle concludes his prayer with praise for the God fully revealed in Jesus who exceeds our imaginations and hope. We are encouraged that the One "who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine" has chosen to do so "by his power at work within us." We respond to the inviting vision with a commitment to reach above and beyond our present in order to Imagine God's tomorrow.

We ask that you pray for First United Methodist Church Richardson and about your participation in our *Imagine* campaign.