

Assembly Mennonite Church Building Project: Space to meet God and share God's love with others

Assembly Mennonite Church seeks to be a dynamic Christian community by together meeting God who draws us beyond ourselves into nurturing, sharing, and living the good news of God's love as known in Jesus Christ. Assembly invites people to participate actively in congregational life, to grow spiritually and to act on Assembly's commitment to Biblical peace, nonviolence and justice. (from the AMC mission statement)

Since 2010, we have had a 25% increase in average Sunday morning attendance. This response to God's good news has created a need for additional space.

The project:

The current building will be renovated to create or enlarge 11 classrooms, offices for pastors and staff, the multi-purpose space, the library and the kitchen and upgrade the mechanical equipment. An addition will add worship space seating 299, five single use bathrooms, a welcoming entry and gathering space. We will prepare the site to include 105 parking spaces, a memorial garden, playground, green space and storm water management.

How each new or renovated space will contribute to Assembly's mission:

Classrooms

All **student** classes will take place in the renovated classroom area. The removal of daycare property will make more space available. Classrooms will be assigned dynamically based on the number of students and the room size. A reconfigured Sunday school space will allow students more time to explore what it means to be followers of Jesus because they will not have to leave the building.

Prime example: Currently there is no place for an infant class and no place for a quiet spot to have a child sleep. Fifth grade students walk to Dana Miller's house in all kinds of weather for shortened class time. Our Junior MYF youth must move chairs from storage to the south classroom each Sunday morning. Kindergarten and first grade classes must cross the street to the odor-challenged house.

Worship space

People can easily find seats together and will be able to see and hear clearly. Children and adults can move around easily for children's time, communion, offering and dance. **People** can focus on preparing for worship rather than setting up the worship space. A separate worship space will make it easier to hold **weddings, funerals** and other services on days other than Saturday and Sunday. An enhanced sound system will make full participation easier.

Prime example: During children's time youngsters are often crowded and can't see or hear what is going on. Movement during offerings and communion is cumbersome and dangerous for some people. With increased attendance, people have a hard time finding a seat. Constant setting up and tearing down shortens the life of chairs and songbooks.

Multi-purpose room

Adults will enjoy quiet space in the divided area of the multi-purpose room for second hour. During carry-ins everyone will be able to sit at tables. **Those preparing for fellowship meals** will have more time and space to set up during second hour without interfering with other second hour activities.

Prime example: During October adults met in one of the north rooms to discuss the parables and finances. Their discussion of wants and needs was interrupted by noise and people checking to see who was where. The renovated multi-purpose room will allow groups to concentrate on sharing how God is working in their lives without interruptions.

Offices and conference room

Pastors will have their own private offices for study, prayer and counseling. **Committees** will be able to use the conference room without the need to set up or disturb other areas of the church.

Prime example: Since pastors do not have offices, they find it difficult to locate a quiet, safe space to counsel people. Having no storage space, pastors have difficulty sharing resources when meeting with others. It is difficult for meetings with more than three people to be held on campus.

Parking lot, entrance and lobby

Visitors can quickly find parking and the main entrance. Upon entering they can easily find the worship space and restrooms. Single use restrooms allow for privacy and flexibility. **Everyone** can move smoothly from the parking lot to their seat.

Prime example: Visitors now have a hard time finding the main entrance. Once inside they have a harder time finding the restrooms.

Entire building

We are committed to sharing this building with our community. **Groups working on causes important to us** will be able to use appropriately sized spaces for their activities. One option we are seriously pursuing is offering office space to National Immigrant Justice Center, an organization that offers comprehensive legal services to low-income immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

Costs:

The current cost estimate (May 2016 to be updated January 2017):

Site work	\$250,000
Renovation	\$85,000
New construction	\$755,000
Tithe**	\$110,000
Total	\$1,200,000

**When AMC made the decision to move forward with this project, we also decided to set aside approximately 10% of the building cost, dedicated to community work for peace and justice.

How we will pay for it:

In early 2017 we will conduct a congregation wide capital campaign to raise the funds. Our goal is to raise the total amount needed to avoid the expense of a mortgage and interest fees. Since the contributions will come in over a three-year period, we will need to acquire a temporary construction loan. Below is a table that shows how it can be possible to raise the total amount:

Number of donors	Monthly donation	Yearly donation	Total amount over 3 years	Total
3	\$2,777	\$33,333	\$100,000	\$300,000
3	\$1,388	\$16,666	\$50,000	\$150,000
8	\$694	\$8,333	\$25,000	\$200,000
8	\$416	\$5,000	\$15,000	\$120,000
10	\$277	\$3,333	\$10,000	\$100,000
30	\$138	\$1,666	\$5,000	\$150,000
30	\$69	\$833	\$2,500	\$75,000
20	\$27	\$333	\$1,000	\$20,000
variable	variable	variable	\$10-500	\$85,000
112				\$1,200,000

We are doing this project so that we can

- 1) better share our vibrant, progressive, Anabaptist faith with the many people receptive to this Good News;
- 2) nurture, make room for, and pass on our faith to the children and youth in our midst; and
- 3) offer space and hospitality to justice workers and peacemakers in our community.

Leadership Group: Jeanne Liechty, Anna Yoder Schlabach, Justin Rothshank, Joel Zwier, Rose Stutzman, James Stuckey Weber, Karl Shelly, Lora Nafziger

Financial Task Force: Jep Hostetler, Eric Kaufmann, Lucas Landis, Ben Nelson, Dennis Landis, Susan Nelson, Anna Yoder Schlabach