



Frequently Asked Questions Building Proposal

1. *There are many important building projects we could pursue as a church family. Why is it best to begin with the auditorium?*

The first edition of a master plan for Church on Mill was created by Debartelo Architects in 2022. It outlined the construction of a new auditorium adjacent to Mill Avenue as phase one. We loved the design; however, the estimated cost was well out of reach (well over \$11,000,000). After months of prayer, conversations with church members, and counsel from construction industry experts, the elders asked Jack Debartelo to design a revised master plan that began with a roughly \$5,000,000 project. His firm returned with the design now being recommended, namely, an expanded auditorium. At less than half the original projected cost, enlarging the auditorium is much cheaper than building a new one. This is by far the most cost-effective strategy to begin addressing our building needs as a congregation.

2. *What will this approach accomplish?*

Much! First, we would have an auditorium with space sufficient to seat 500 people. An auditorium of this size would allow us to worship in one gathering. It would also provide room to reach new people and act as a hub for training members to plant and revitalize other churches. Finally, we'd be able to host events with seating at round tables of up to 300 people. Second, this project will also provide a multi-use lobby, a larger café, and an expanded patio. Third, this will launch Church on Mill into facility improvements by tackling the least expensive project first, which makes future projects more likely to get accomplished in a reasonable time frame.

3. *What is the projected timeline and cost?*

The phase one budget is estimated at \$5,350,000. The entire process (design, permitting, and construction) will take slightly less than 2 years.

4. *How will the project be funded?*

Knowing multiple phases of a church campus transformation would one day be needed, the members of Church on Mill gave faithfully and saved wisely for many years. Right now, these savings provide \$330,000 toward the project. This is a great start! The remainder of the funds will come from member contributions as well as outside sources of funding. These could include individual donors, churches, contributions from Life Among the Nations and Christian Challenge supporters, and grants. Although ideally, the project will be funded without debt, the church could secure a loan for any outstanding balance once contributions and commitments have been made.



5. *Where will we meet for worship gatherings during construction?*

Since the auditorium will undergo substantial modification and expansion, it will be unusable for roughly 10 months. This obviously creates a unique challenge for us as a church family! Where will we meet for gathered worship during those months? At this point, we see three possibilities: a) Rent space nearby. This might be on the ASU campus, a church, a nearby public school, or perhaps a hotel conference room. b) Use a large portable tent on the lawn. c) Utilize the Christian Challenge Building by offering an extra gathering or two. If the project is approved by the congregation, a team will be created to explore these options, determine which will best suit the needs of the church family, and develop an approach to keep us worshipping together during construction.

6. *What about the kitchen?*

You may have noticed the design includes a café rather than a full kitchen. While the café is larger, it will not include ovens or burners. Building codes now require commercial kitchens, even in churches. This means the cost of a full kitchen is out of reach, even for very large churches. This project allows for what's called a warming kitchen and a full-service coffee facility. Ministries that may need a full kitchen can use the Christian Challenge building.

7. *What about the other buildings we own but need to replace?*

With the exception of the Christian Challenge building, several of the resident homes, and the auditorium, every other building Church on Mill utilizes needs to be replaced. These buildings are long past their shelf-life and will not sustain ministry into the next generation. Debartelo Architects has designed a preliminary master plan that addresses the total ministry needs of the church. A second or second and third phase would bring about a total transformation of the church property, which would include wonderful new family ministry rooms, classrooms, offices, playground, and conference rooms. After phase one is complete, we would love to begin phase two at the earliest possible date. In the meantime, phase one includes \$100,000 for renovations to existing buildings, helping to maximize these spaces until they can be replaced. A team is already working on how to best utilize those resources.

8. *How can I get involved?*

Reading this document is a great start, so thank you! In addition to reading print materials, please consider attending one of the Q&As the elders have scheduled to solicit feedback and address questions from members. These meetings are October 28th at 9am, November 12th at 2pm, and November 28th at 6:30pm. Of course, even more important than Q&As are prayers. Please ask the Lord for guidance and blessing. We will vote on the elder's recommendation that Debartelo Architects be contracted to move forward with the design for the project in the Members Meeting on December 3rd. If approved by the congregation, the elders will then encourage year-end gifts to be directed toward the project, and in the first quarter of 2024, opportunities for a three-year giving commitment will be extended. Begin considering now what you can most generously contribute.