

**PORT NELSON UNITED CHURCH**  
***CONSIDERING GOD'S SPACES***  
**COMPILATION**  
**OF**  
**TOWN HALL MEETINGS**  
**NOV. 21<sup>st</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010,**  
**And**  
**JAN. 9<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Dream Church Features**

**Question: If you could build the church building of your dreams, what would it look like, what facilities would it have?**

**Common Areas**

1. accessible to all, elevator/washrooms	80X
2. commercial, adequate kitchen	42X
3. flexible partitioning for rooms	24X
4. multi use/flexible rooms for commercial events	22X
5. larger gathering space/gym/sports nets	13X
6. garden space/outdoor service/weddings photos reflection area	7X
7. library/study room	5X
8. warm reception room	7X
9. improve parking	6X
10. music room	5X
11. one floor construction including large basement	2X
12. welcoming entrance/portico	XX
13. nursery/Sunday school rooms	5X
14. large choir room	XX
15. ice rink	XX
16. dog room	X
17. basketball court	X

**Environment**

18. energy efficient, sustainable, green environment/AC	36X
19. solar panels	6X
20. green roof	XX

**Sanctuary**

21. multi purpose sanctuary	13X
22. audio video system/multi media	13X

23. air conditioning	12X
24. maintain traditional look	5X
25. lots of glass	4X
26. maintain beautiful sanctuary	XX
27. no pews	3X
28. electronics blended in	X
29. size the sanctuary to better use the space	X
30. maintain history of our church	X
31. traditional sanctuary with light and air	X
32. leave organ as is	XX
33. padded pews	XX
34. chairs	X

Miscellaneous

35. think about needs of next generation	5X
36. our present church covers our needs	4X
37. good office space with site of front door	XX
38. quiet spaces inside and out	XX
39. revolving cross on top of church	X
40. bigger letters on church front	X
41. Big Jesus with moving eyes	XX
42. Gumball machine	XX

**Strengths of PNUC as Faith Community**

**Question: Name one strength of Port Nelson, our community of faith**

- Leadership in Community
- Inclusive, open
- Community
- Beautiful music
- Sharing
- Great worship
- Fun loving, enthusiastic, friendly
- Great staff
- Increasing community involvement
- Caring. Loving
- Family
- Tradition
- Lots of volunteers
- Openness to many faith traditions
- Innovative
- Youth programs
- Unique

- Many levels of friendship and support
- Generous
- Good food
- “I’m the strength of the church”
- Taking care of people’s needs
- It’s cool.
- We learn about God.
- Tradition
- Tolerance
- Education

### **Building Strengths**

**Question: Name one strength of our building**

- Large Sanctuary
- Accessibility
- Location
- Beauty
- Location
- Multiple use
- Music-organ
- Parking
- Warmth of sanctuary
- Library
- O’Brien Room-good location close to sanctuary
- Kitchen
- Lloyd Auditorium
- Activities for community
- Large property
- Large structural footprint
- Able to share in non-profit way
- Stained glass windows
- Talented staff
- Welcoming space
- Large basement with big, bright windows
- Every room has a worship centre
- Chapel
- Tradition
- Choir
- Stage
- Visibility

## Comment Cards from Town Hall meetings

1. "Port Nelson has truly been a "Port" for our family in all aspects of our lives i.e. Worship, community, music venue, Brownies, Beavers, voting, meeting place, weddings, funerals and open space. We hope to see it continue as an important landmark and house of worship which truly binds a community together."
2. I will not be going on a tour of the facilities because of accessibility issues. Too many stairs.
3. Investigate government grants available and make known to everyone.
4. Raze and rebuild older parts incorporating modern facilities ie: gym/multi purpose room, commercial kitchen, chapel, library etc. Solar panels, investigate government grants
5. How are we going to pay for this?
6. There are many different avenues of giving, weekly contributions, capital campaigns, gifts of securities, estate gifts etc. We need to access each of these avenues. We need to not confuse our weekly/monthly contributions with a capital project contributions.
7. We should not be afraid of a mortgage
8. Tour other church facilities i.e.: St. Christopher, Wellington Square, St. Paul Presbyterian
9. I want more data on option #3, tear down and rebuild beyond current sanctuary
10. Check with Wellington Square re: heating with geo thermal system
11. The rear of the sanctuary can be used for meetings etc. by removing pews, having moveable chairs and partitions.
12. As someone said, we need to know a new configuration if we tear down. Would we add some new areas to accommodate all our needs?
13. Bring down cost of electricity and heating-too much..... breezy
14. Update kitchen to meet health requirements
15. Re: new roof- check with the Gov't. re assistance in installing solar panels (we can sell the excess to a common grid)
16. ?present inadequate outdated heating system
17. What would be the cost of improved "accessibility" (elevator, washrooms, etc) without major structural changes? A third option? Could ceiling insulation be upgraded (to code) without demolition?(and at a lower cost in Lloyd Auditorium and Sanctuary etc)
18. Zoning issue? If demolishing east wing what has to be changed in main structure to accommodate our needs?
19. Will there be a large area that allows for gatherings like this one today? If so will there be a kitchen?
20. Accessibility is very important as is being green and to have a large gathering space. Senior's subsidized housing on top of meeting rooms? With solar panels.
21. Go for option #1 and reduce the cost of such an option
22. Do market studies of population/growth in this area-board of education may have info. What is needed in our community?

23. Time is of the essence-don't delay as prices go up all the time as do taxes. Don't ask the congregation for all the money-we lost members before and don't want to lose more.
24. Maybe we should just replace the roofs at this time.
25. Reconfigure the sanctuary space.
26. The options presented need to be greater in number. Haste with which this is happening may work against us. Many are not at a place to consider change.
27. Space for renting out and auditoriums up and down. Elevator a must. Market our space as unique.
28. Some churches use the sanctuary space in different ways
29. How many in our congregation and how many come to church?
30. Is change financially viable?
31. Needs assessment of our community
32. Are we in a low income area?
33. Life-lease building-people in Roseland in big house may want to stay in area
34. Primarily need to determine what our congregation wants
35. Financial-Capital Campaign
36. Teach congregation about the need to keep up/maintain our space-set up reserve funds
37. set an example of living green in our world, we are at present a very wasteful congregation
38. When was the last time we invited all the local community to come to our church?
39. There are successes of live churches on-line
40. What is the maximum number we can attract?
41. Feature our great organ and acoustics. Enhance our music abilities in promotion.
42. Look at where and how we want our church to grow and how does the building meet the needs of future vision.
43. We must be sustainable. Congregation needs to buy in.
44. Utilize our organ. Boost performance space for organ and other musical performances. Permit rental of our organ for performances.
45. Rebuild sanctuary to convert to a theatre.
46. Fear, that children's needs will be forgotten. Ensure they have a voice.

### **Questions and Concerns from open forums**

- Are we talking about 2 options only?
- Look at our financial position- our deficit debt.
- This is a chance to build congregation up
- Favour option # 1
- Look at driveway, windows with regard to repair costs
- Status quo is NOT an option
- Engineering report is not a creative report
- Significant water problems
- All roofs are beyond life expectancy
- How can option #2 be \$1.2 million? Where do the figures come from? We need more facts and figures

- 14 people took tours.
- Offer more tours? Sunday after worship is the preferred time
- Sell part of building to another church
- What would a lot sell for?
- Concern about selling property as it would be gone forever and would limit future growth
- Upsetting to think of tearing down
- Accessibility not addressed by option #1
- Fundraising
- Investigate solar panels more seriously

## **REPORT FROM TOWN HALL GATHERING JANUARY 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2011**

### **Recommendation from Council to be voted on at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday February 27, 2011**

**“moved that Council prepare a report and make a recommendation for the rebuilding of a new and improved church (East of the existing sanctuary), together with a sound plan for financing the improvements, all of which will be approved by the Congregation prior to commencement of the project”.**

### **QUESTION 1. What excites you about the recommendation?**

- Accessibility
- Developing a church building which meets our needs now and in the future
- opportunity with congregational input
- new energy
- good to keep old sanctuary
- creative innovation
- opportunity for income re: the space
- rental units/day care partnerships
- moving forward
- get the things we need
- get rid of leaks
- accessible space, congregation is aging
- community use of space for concerts etc
- a/c do in as green a way as possible
- making space smaller but more efficient

- idea of accessibility
- new is about the same cost as repair/renew
- rebuild is the future, senior component (bring in increased number of younger people)
- not tearing down and selling property
- accessibility
- co-operate with other congregations
- ?amalgamation
- Accessibility
- Better use of facilities
- Open concept-flexibility
- Positive use of space
- Allows for accessible spaces everywhere
- Brings in the allotting spaces for renters to help bring down the debt
- Allows for concerts
- Accessibility is a necessity which needs to be addressed; washrooms, how can we not make this happen? Embarrassing, lack of dignity.
- All floors to maintain “wholeness of our Community”
- Accessibility
- Green
- Positive outlook for growth
- Outward exposure to the community that we are alive, well and growing
- Gives us a new sense of purpose
- Can support the community at large
- Moving forward in a positive direction
- Accessibility
- Large hall to hold all of congregation
- Multi-use purposes (moveable pews)
- Energy efficient-keep up with the times
- Kitchen-commercial grade
- Brand new facility which is modern and accessible

## **REPORT FROM TOWN HALL GATHERING JANUARY 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2011**

Question 2: What concerns you about the recommendation?

- How do you honour memorials e.g.: Lloyd Auditorium, Chapel
- How will we finance it?
- How do we excite people, get them enthused to give?
- Cost- can we raise it and then can we sustain it?
- Change/transition cause splits/division, stress on relationships in the church
- Money, fund-raise first then build

- How to carry out our mission while building is going on?
- Repairs would need to be done if we delay building until all money raised
- With what is happening to so many churches, is there a need to build a new church?
- General cost to the congregation
- How to pay for it? We are getting older and some are on fixed income.
- Need more information along the way
- How many people will use our building, that will affect our plans
- Reaching out re: changing demographics.
- Air conditioning-which areas, don't want sanctuary A/C'd
- Loss of income etc during construction, where would we and other groups meet?
- Fundraising, financing must be in place
- Raising the money
- Accessibility is a necessity which needs to be addressed. How can we not have accessible washrooms-this is embarrassing, loss of dignity
- All floors to maintain "wholeness of our community"
- How far into "commercial" do we need for a kitchen?
- Parking?!
- How do we handle day to day operations already committed to, during the construction phase?
- Look to different types of worship to attract a broader base of members
- Money! Financing!
- Transition from old to new, how will this be worked out?
- The length of time the facility is down
- Parking during construction period
- Start-up time

**REPORT FROM TOWN HALL GATHERING  
JANUARY 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2011  
COMMENT CARDS**

- The possibility of having a smaller, more efficient structure may allow us to reach out more to serve our community. Efficient does not just mean "cost less" but the effort to maintain.
- Real concern about the cost
- It's fine to ask groups what they would like-but unless they are willing to put up cash- forget it.
- Concern about the actual need for a commercial kitchen.
- Nothing excites us about the recommendation (10 people). Concerns, great costs. Should install new hip roof at a cost of \$12,000 + HST
- Key concern not to change the sanctuary for multi use. I think Gord's group had a sensible "idea". Fix the roof- then move on to the possibility of replacing the "old" part of the building, maybe raise ½ or more of the funds first.