

NFI SURVEY COMMENTS

Constant Contact Survey Results

Survey Name: New Facilities Investigation Survey

Response Status: Partial & Completed

Filter: None

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10. Additional questions/comments about the "Site" section: - Responses

Answer

-we have fairly good visibility in the neighbourhood but not in the wider city...buried in a residential neighbourhood...which is both a strength and a weakness
-we cannot always rely on street parking; need more on-site, spaces need to be wider; more wheelchair spots, spots for first-time people

Utilize Roseland Park for community based activities. The park is easily accessible with wonderful space. It also draws us from the church site and into a visible presence in the community. We need not duplicate facilities.

The park across the street works well.

I am not sure of the relationship with the Roseland tennis club but with the greenspace there it helps to make the church feel more open. Greenspace is important and having access to outdoor space is important.

My answers re there being adequate space for outdoor activities is with the assumption that the park across the street can be used for such activities.

Tree trimming, hedge trimming and signage at parking lot entrances are needed.

community based activities have space very near by

The number of parking spaces is adequate. The spaces are too narrow.

While additional parking and outdoor activity space are desirable, these are less important than providing viable, essential indoor space.

Lawn space is adequate on Spruce St. for activities

Perhaps we don't need too much space for sports on site as we have the Roseland Park right across the street. We have had an excellent relationship with them over the years. They have an arrangement with the city regarding defraying of taxes due to the fact they allow the public to use park.

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I think having access to the park across the street gives us a space for sports and a bbque could already be held in the parking lot if street parking were used. Foundation planting adds a lot and the gardens on the north side are lovely but we do not have the luxury of using more parking lot area for gardens unless they were containerized.

Some of the questions are strange. Why would we put community gardens on such a small lot?

While I think barbecues, sport and outdoor activities could be part of the church's occasional activities, I think they can be accomodated or facilitated elsewhere. While I support church sponsored community gardens, I think space should be arranged outside of the Rosedale area.

Usually the only time we need more parking is Sun. morning.

Although important, i would not consider moving the site of the Church for the questions in which I answered "disagree". I love the Church site and feel that the land beside the tennis courts makes up for the lack of "space" on the actual site.

Port Nelson is a large structure that obviously is evident in the neighbourhood. I think part of the drawback to the current site is that is is not visible from major roads. It makes advertising of our events difficult. How can we be an integral part of the Roseland community by offering ministry to the needs of this community?

Parking spaces are not well laid out with sufficient space for larger vehicles such as mini-vans. The site should be well laid out and landscaped, elaborate flower gardens are not necessary but a neat and well maintained yard space is. Community garden is not a priority for us but an area for gathering/picnic is.

Site is visible from the street but not from high traffic areas such as Lakeshore Road and New Street

If the congregation were to grow considerably, more parking would be needed.

In addition to the parking lot there is adequate street parking
RE: question 9: I think what is there is adequate; we do not need more! So if the question suggests more then I strongly disagree
The site is an excellent location for our church

There are two entrances; one is a one-way in; maybe traffic flow could be clearly labelled

Property is confined; outside activities except in the park adjacent are limited. Our business is religion and trying to do good.

The site size is a bit small but is quite adequate for the vast majority of church activities.

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A group of volunteers have done an excellent job of improving the landscaping and have developed a memorial garden in the alcove at the front of the church.

There is a park across the street

For years we parked on a nearby street for Sundays and midweek events. There was no problem and plenty of space without parking metres as at some churches. With funds a consideration this is one place where extra money should not be spent.

We have city parks and lake access

The site is clearly visible on South Drive. Going north on Rossmore you could miss it or see a building and not realize it was Port Nelson. I think a Parking Sign would be helpful. I think there is enough space at present to accommodate outdoor activities.

Site OK as is.

21. Additional questions/comments about the "Environmental Considerations" section: - Responses

Answer

-I'm not sure what some of these questions mean/the terminology is a bit technical

-also not sure if this topic relates to our stated values...it may indirectly

Make the facility usable 12 months of the year with green energy for heating and cooling. Natural ventilation is great but with the summer we are having certainly does not make Port Nelson accessible. Air conditioning is a must.

Installation of LED lighting through out the facility. Install zoning of heating distribution.

15 if this refers to trees....every gathering place has a parking lot that is a heat island: parks, malls, apartment buildings etc.

Trees need a lot of irrigation for a few years after planting and they are small for many years and give limited shade. A parking lot is just what the name implies: a place to park your car!!

Rainwater runoff would require tankage and pumping to use it and this could only be for irrigation purposes. There is a lot of dirt and sediment which would be washed from the collecting area into the tank and possibly other pollutants would be washed into the tankage.

Cost is still a mitigating factor in all practicality

Even if you'd like to do something that is environmentally friendly", it can't be at any cost, there has to be an element of economic rationalization.

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It would be great to have comparison figures: cost to heat/air condition building now and cost of a new renovated structure.

sanctuary should be airconditioned

Cost-benefit considerations come into play. Lawn irrigation costs may be \$300/yr and may be low vs other alternatives. Water is not a scarce commodity in Burlington. Cistern systems have ongoing costs and risks.

It would be silly not to "consider" all of the above, however cost/benefit analysis also needs to be carried out.

solar panels should be strongly considered

I feel that we must employ the most responsible, green technologies known today in any renovation/reconstruction of Port Nelson. It is our ethical responsibility without question.

more education needs to be done on "greening" our church. Young people would be good educators.

New materials and technologies should be employed wherever and whenever possible. All decisions should undergo cost benefit analysis, there is no benefit to spending significant capital dollars to achieve pennies in energy savings. Environmental technologies should not be incorporated to simply "look good" or achieve optical goals.

There is no extra room in the parking lot to allow for question 14

Visibility matters

Dust, noise, pollution is all part of construction (rebuilding)

Installation of new, improved facility outways the short-term inconvenience

RE 14: This would take up needed parking spaces

Does tearing down a fairly sound and functional building and dumping the debris in a landfill site demonstrate responsible environmental principles?

Does tearing down a fairly sound and functional building and creating noise, congestion and air pollution in the neighbourhood demonstrate responsible environmental principles?

Environmental considerations should be economically feasible with the existing building. We shouldn't be adding to landfill sites.

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Being in debt, we cannot afford any unnecessary changes presently.

36. Additional questions/comments about the "Support Facilities" section: - Responses

Answer

Let's remember we are talking about a church and not a recreation centre. Burlington has wonderful recreation and leisure activities. Build a church that meets the congregations spiritual needs and rent those spaces to interested outside groups when not needed by the congregation.

in the past. We need to assess who might use them and also where they might be accommodated elsewhere

Rental income should be a high priority therefore providing facilities that promote rental income from the community should be a high priority.

A small room is not required for small groups.

33 - a full commercial kitchen is called for if the church would accommodate a shelter. This is surely needed in the Burlington area.

35 - how many children attend our Sunday school program? Is that not the way to assess the need?

I feel that we should welcome groups into our facility within certain size limits. At the same time, we are not a recreational facility and should not be trying to compete as one.

It is definitely reasonable to charge the same user fees which would be paid anywhere else.

Our church obviously can't accommodate all community groups in need of space.

Community groups and service groups whose purpose and function aligns with church values, should be considered on a rent-free or donation basis as part of the church's outreach ministry.

question 33 should have answered disagree.

I am unsure if we are building a structure in which to worship as a church family or to rent as a community facility????

Many cost-benefit decisions in this area that would influence my decisions.

I really love the Church "as is" and don't really see the need for more room than we already have. The kitchen might be the only area that needs updating. Perhaps it's because I have lots of memories of the Church as it stands today that I don't feel the need to change its look and feel.

School gyms, library facilities, can provide space for athletic activities

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In order to be sustainable, I believe that our whole church facility should be designed and maintained with income generating capabilities. I feel we should become a centre for culture, music, healing and wellness as well as for welcoming, liberal theology in worship.

The needs of our surrounding community should be explored...how could PNUC become a centre of activity and a place where people of all ages feel comfortable and accepted

The church should be able to accomodate a wide variety of activities. There should also be a marketing campaign to rent these facilities for cost recovery. A flexible design can help carry a dual load of meeting church needs and community needs.

RE 26: apart from providing income and much needed day care spaces, this could help grow the participation of young families in the church

RE 30: community ties, projects for home & afar

not really clear re "full commercial kitchen" and what this includes

RE: 33: Ideally a larger kitchen with appropriate refrigerator and gas stove - does that mean full commercial? Certainly the present refrigerator and stove are not adequate for services being provided presently

We are not building a community centre!

We should be very thankful that we have facilities that are basically sound and generally function well. Our current facilities would be envied by many other churches. With the current economic conditions we should make the most of what we have. Upgrades and improvements should be done gradually as needed.

Improvements needed should be prioritized and done as funding is raised for each individual project.

There are many other organizations and facilities in Burlington for community interests and activities

What do you mean by "modern library services?" Do you mean computer indexing and library cards or something else? Certainly the library should be accessible but I don't think we need to compete with the Burlington Library.

Our present facilities are fine for our needs. Some minor modification might be made to make them even better. Example - elevator

There are plenty of recreational options in Burlington. I don't think we should be competing with other existing organizations, e.g. Roseland Club, Y, etc.

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46. Additional questions/comments about the "Sanctuary" section: - Responses

Answer

-reducing its size could well jeopardize the accoustics and the beauty

Our pews could be improved. Chairs are less comfortable, create more noise and more danger to older less mobile people.

The sanctuary is wheelchair accessible. Concerts held in the sanctuary are enjoyed. To host community based functions in the sanctuary, it would depend upon what they are.

The sanctuary is under used and needs to be available for many other activites. A more flexible sanctuary would reduce the need for a larger building andn give more parking space.

Replacing pews in favour of chairs is not something I would like. Sitting in theatre style chairs or office chairs for worship is distracting from the traditional style of service I like that I think the United Church are preserving. "Informalising" the setting is a step to informalising the services and if I want that I can go to the Baptist church

A multi-purpose sanctuary would provide increased use of this accessible space. Accessible washrooms are an absolute must.

Air conditioning is a nice to have but a luxury. Capital and operating money better spent on other important issues.

40. The sanctuary is just a large space in which sacred meetings are held. It could serve as a meeting place for many other activities.

Air conditioning would be nice BUT it would be very expensive, and for how many weeks in the active church year would it be needed?

Yes, the Sanctuary could be used for other activities, but they should be along the lines of those presented now, i.e. concerts, readings, other decorous events.

Opinion; I think the Sanctuary is lovely the way it is.

Air conditioning the sanctuary I imagine would be expensive and not eco eco friendly-

A question not asked might pertain to the development of good audio and visual systems and good viewing by audience/congragation; both of these I feel are really important if we are renovating sanctuary.

NFI SURVEY COMMENTS

Any part of the church where we are carrying out our core values is a sacred place and should not exclude any activity which helps attain that goal. That is NOT to say that appropriate behaviour by all during a period of worship does not have to be learned. Laughter & playfulness of children is a special blessing.

This section asks questions to which the answers are obvious but the questions should really be two-part. For example, air conditioning would enhance the upper and lower levels of the building but is that cost-effective for such short periods of time and the best answer for dealing with the cooling of these areas?

Preservation of the stained glass windows should be a priority.

#39, 43, 44 is agree, but again based on cost/benefit analysis.

The choir loft area should be reconfigured so that choir faces the congregation.

Chairs in the sanctuary would take up more space & are noisy when moved (I know from experience). I feel that no renovations or building should be undertaken until we have increased the membership of younger couples & singles. Most of the members are over 65 and widowed & we will not be around to pay off mortgages & who will do that????

Our sanctuary is beautiful and is sacred space. It is also too large for our current congregational attendance. It would be very nice to be able to configure comfortable chairs in a way that would allow more intimate gatherings, as well as concerts, plays, music events and series of cultural events.

The mandate was to explore space east of the sanctuary, therefore, we should be careful about too many changes in the Sanctuary
I notice that there are no questions about using new technologies in the sanctuary. One of PNUC's assets is its beautiful sanctuary.

We believe the sanctuary can be and has been used for activities other than worship (Watoto Choir, Hot Five Jazz, Dickens reading). These activities enhance the church and should be further explored (music recitals, concerts). The current size of the sanctuary meets the needs of variable attendance (Christmas and Easter).

Lighting in sanctuary should be on a dimmer system rather than very bright or too dark
Chancel should be more flexible furniture-wise - should be able to accommodate large choirs facing the congregation

All are welcome in God's house
I believe food and drink should not be allowed in the sanctuary

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Does air conditioning conflict with "responsible environmental principles?"

If considering chairs in the sanctuary, consider wider ones with no arms

consider wider, comfortable chairs

The sanctuary functions very well. No changes are needed.

No major change in the sanctuary is necessary.

Although I think activities other than worship can be held in the sanctuary, I would not want to see Mistletoe Mart sellers in the sanctuary, and we should have specific guidelines for the type of community use.

Perhaps a ramp could be provided for the chancel

RE 44: I don't think A/C is justified in the sanctuary for the low attendance in the summer months. It is obviously needed in the offices.

RE 45: Chairs might be a good idea but I don't think the expense is justified at this time.

50. Additional questions, comments and/or observations I wish to share with the New Facilities Investigation Group at this time: - Responses

Answer

Make sure the money is available before the renovation. We do not need to be in a debt situation in these turbulent economic times.

congregants will leave for a more stable church.

This is a huge undertaking for which you have volunteered, however, the congregands could not be in better or more capable hands than those of you on this committee. God Bless you all.

The attendance in the summer is very light, maybe the services could be held earlier? For whom is air conditioning (lovely yes!) needed? The offices can have window or portable A/C.

The same with heating in the winter...people can keep their coats on in the Sanctuary, it does not have to accommodate light clothing. It is usually way too warm.

An elevator probably a must within the building if more than one level.

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The sanctuary could have fewer pews with movable chairs in the rear portion. A sliding curtain wall could divide the sanctuary so the rear portion could be used for meetings etc. during the week, then rolled back for Sunday services.

Not sure I understand the rationale behind this at all. Seems like this will end up being a huge spend for very little marginal improvement.

It would be wonderful if fear (of unknown, of financial scarcity, of change) was not our driving factor for decision making but rather how our physical space can help us live out God's purpose for us as a church.

Thank you to the committee for all their hard work.

Male also supports this survey.

arrangements should be made for the hearing impaired

I think we are at a junction in our journey that we need to make some timely and tough decisions as a congregation. We are dealing with an aging structure which will only leave our future members more of a burden but we have an opportunity to make some changes to increase our values of outreach and inclusivity. Onward & upward!

Technology is important both for the sanctuary and the building. It should include but not be limited to: projector, screens, AV control centre, sound system, wi-fi hotspots for the sanctuary and for any other areas in the building where it would enhance the activities. A guest user kiosk in the foyer would also be helpful.

I feel that some emphasis should be placed on providing at least wiring for ample multi-media support in all meeting rooms and the sanctuary. The decision

I feel it is hard to make decisions about our facility without knowing the cost factor. Some items are a higher priority than others. I think we need to know a time line for changes and a budget for payment.

It might be nice to have all the things that others want, but consider the burden of payments on the elderly.

The first half of this survey disappeared before I could finish as I wanted to go back & make more comments.

I feel that we have a responsibility to our worship community to engage in this assessment and reconfiguration of our space so that it is environmentally green, fiscally sustainable and flexible to allow many groups from the church and the community to meet and grow in a nurturing environment.

There are many things which I might like but given the money available which ones are a necessity? Can we as a caring church community justify spending so much money on ourselves when there are so many life and death needs out in the world? Will it help us have a deeper relationship with God?

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We believe children's activities and needs should be considered in any new design. Not just space for Sunday school but facilities to support groups such as Glee Camp, youth group or musical theatre. This includes a space to host drama or musical productions.

In my lifetime I have been a member of 5 United Churches. I have enjoyed the fellowship of them all and am really enjoying my relationship with the parishioners and ministers of Port Nelson United for the past 6 months.

I strongly urge that you do not destroy the original church building. Surely it can be adapted or integrated into the new design. We do not need nor should we spend money on a "dream church."

For the past four years Port Nelson has run up annual deficits. This congregation is not in a position to assume the massive debt that this project would generate. We need to be more realistic in what we really need and what we can afford. This massive project does not appear to be necessary. Building up a massive debt does not demonstrate good.

Keep the existing building.

This church has a past of many wonderful people who have served the community well.

What is the forecast congregation size for the next twenty years?

There appears to be a lot of dreaming and no logic

I am very worried about the cost involved in this planning. I am afraid that many of us are not going to be able to support this, and will find it very difficult to feel a part of the congregation if we cannot increase our givings as we may be asked to do.

I believe we should not destroy the facilities that we recently raised funds for.

I believe everything we need is here - for the preparation to live out our faith outside the church building. We have plenty of room to fulfill our mission.