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January 11, 2010

First United Methodist Church
72 Lake Morton Drive
Lakeland, Florida 33801

Attn: Lisa Kaiser Hickey, Chair
Long Range Planning Committee

Re: Progress Report – November and December

Dear Lisa,

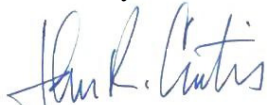
The highlight of November and December has been the presentation of the first conceptual master plan to various groups within the church and beyond. More specifically, these past two months have included the following efforts:

1. Data gathering continues but is now largely complete.
 - John Curtis met with Kevin Hull, Counseling Ministry, on 11/3/09. Counseling is presently housed in the Epworth House (along with the card ministry). Epworth House also provides storage support for some of the 1st UMC work teams, Tuesday Tigers, etc. The free-standing location is particularly desirable for counseling.
2. Facility programming efforts have been limited to developing the initial cost estimates for the first two phases of the master plan. Phase I is projected at \$8,500,000.00 and Phase II at \$10,000,000+. Budgets for land acquisition, furnishings, equipment, and off-site work are not yet prepared.
3. Master Plan Concept Sketches
 - 11/2/09 – the first concept sketches were presented to LRPC.
 - 11/16/09 – revised concepts were presented to LRPC for comment and review and a schedule was developed for church and neighborhood presentations of the plan.
 - 12/1/09 – SCMH met with Lisa Hickey to develop narrative presentation guidelines for the master plan to insure that a consistent message is being presented.
 - 12/7/09 – SCMH and Glatting Jackson met and presented the again revised master plan concept and preliminary phase budgets to Trustees, and later that evening to the Church Council. Many comments and questions were received, almost all favorable and supportive of the effort to date.
 - 12/15/09 – SCMH and GJ presented the concept plan to a meeting of the congregation with more favorable comment.

- 12/17/09 – the concept plan was presented to an open house for our church neighbors. The plan was politely received with a range of constructive input. Specific concerns voiced included:
 - a. Orientation of the diagonal parking along Vistabula Street and alignment of the pedestrian walk on the north side of Vistabula. It was suggested that this parking be accessed from the on site drive, not from Vistabula.
 - b. Concern was voiced about the potentially large scale of the Worship Center versus the adjacent neighborhood. Questions were asked about the architectural appearance of the buildings and it was explained that mass studies could be done, but that specific architectural design is beyond the scope of the master plan.
 - c. There was discussion about church acquisition of property along Vistabula and Walnut Streets. The church will work with and be subject to approvals by the Historic Preservation Board. While we cannot promise that no home will be acquired for demolition, our intent is to recognize and be sensitive to the contributing status of each home. The church has need for certain mission functions that could be housed in a residential structure. There is the possibility also of relocating contributing structures onto Lime Street lots.
 - d. The areas of "possible acquisition" are just that – no plan of actual acquisition is possible until the Church is made aware of which parcels might be available, and what combination of available parcels could both meet church needs and allow for approval by the Historic Preservation Board. It is not our intent to make all areas of "possible acquisition" into parking.
- Next meeting with our neighbors is 1/26/10, 7:00 p.m. with the Lake Morton Neighborhood Association (LMNA) at Success House for their January 2010 meeting.

Presently the plan concepts have been revised again to incorporate comments to date and are near readiness for the 1/26/10 meeting with LMNA.

Sincerely,



John R. Curtis, A.I.A.
JRC/ajd