



Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church

330 South May Street – Southern Pines, NC 28387

www.brownsonchurch.org

910-692-6252

June 25, 2007

Dear Brownson friends in Christ,

On Sunday night, June 24, the Long Range Facility Committee made its recommendation to the Session of a Master Plan for the long-range facility needs of our church. The plan presented to us by Ramsay, Burgin, Smith, Architects, Inc. of Salisbury, NC received *enthusiastic* support from the committee and the Session. We hope that after you have seen and studied this plan, you the congregation will share our excitement.

Some highlights of Phase I (a phase we hope to undertake as soon as practical):

1. Many of the exterior architectural features of the Chapel will be incorporated into a new building located on the Chapel's footprint. This building will house the youth space, classrooms, and all the professional staff offices.
2. A renovation of the present office area into some larger conference/classrooms that will be excellent for our large adult Sunday School classes, Disciple Classes, and includes a nice room for children's programs – Sunday School opening assembly, wee worship, God's Kids, music and drama, etc.
3. The paving and enlarging of our present gravel Ashe St. parking lot.
4. A prayer tower and elevator topped by the Chapel steeple.

The Master Plan also provides a Phase II proposal replacing our Education Building. At that date in the future a specific floor plan for additional classrooms and other space will be determined.

Five major schemes were presented by the architects, including three plans converting the Chapel building into new uses. After careful consideration, the committee decided that this Master Plan, which replaces the present Chapel building, proved to be the wisest course and led to the committee's recommendation for acceptance of "Scheme #5."

Some of the reasons not to renovate the Chapel:

- a) The architects could not guarantee an end to the water problem and the resulting mold in the basement and possibly throughout the building. The architects noted that much of what Brownson did in 1986 would be what they would have recommended, but since that failed, they were unable to promise that the only additional procedures available would guarantee a water tight basement.

b) Trying to correct the water/mold problem opens us to the possibility of a “no limits” construction budget. A new building without a basement will generate a much tighter construction budget and no water/mold issues.

And most importantly,

c) The Chapel just does not convert well to meet the space needs for programs identified as important to the mission of our Church – not even our *present* program needs, much less those *future* needs envisioned in our Long Range Plan. All three plans re-configuring the Chapel presented options for space that were judged as not even satisfactory.

The architects have provided us with poster- sized elevations of the buildings in the Master Plan. These renderings are displayed in the Atrium. On Sunday, July 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary, the architect will make his presentation to the congregation explaining the Master Plan with floor plans. The Long Range Facility Committee will also be present to speak to your comments and questions.

This Master Plan will of course require significant financial support. We are anticipating a capital campaign in the Spring of 2008 for which the Session is already making plans.

Again, we are excited about this Master Plan! We hope that after you have had time to review it, you will join us with your enthusiastic support.

Together in Christ,

Kamron Monroe, Clerk of Session