

## **College Mennonite Church**

### **Action Step Ideas: Transforming Physical Space (Goal 1.3)**

**January 22, 2017**

#### ***Strategic Priority #1 - Hospitality and Welcoming***

“We will embrace diversity and improve our practices related to welcoming and actively including and inviting others into our physical space and spiritual community.”

#### ***Goal 1.3***

“Beginning July 1, 2017, we will transform our physical space to be more welcoming and to promote relationships and a sense of belonging.”

#### **WHO PARTICIPATED?**

Caryl M. Guth and Myra Oswald, co-chairs.

We had 3 working subgroups:

***Exterior Signage and Designation of Main Entrance:*** Ervin Beck, Martin Lehman, Dwight Grieser, James Horsch

***Exterior Landscaping/Interior Plantscaping:*** Ruth Horsch/Rebecca Sommers

***Welcoming and Hospitality for Interior Spaces and Signage:*** Caryl M. Guth, Myra Oswald, Ruth Horsch, Marianne Pletcher, Rebecca Sommers, Joe Springer

Marty Lehman and Becky B. Horst provided counsel and participated in some meetings.

#### **DESIRED OUTCOME**

Diverse new (and old) CMCers will be able to easily locate our building, know where to enter, and feel an immediate sense of welcome inside. They will be able to easily find services and locations that they need, and will have plenty of convenient and attractive spaces for conversation.

#### **WHAT DO WE PROPOSE?**

We have considered many ideas to transform our physical space. Some of our ideas are implementable with only modest investment of time/resources. Others require investment of considerable time/resources. We believe that most of these can be implemented independently of each other as time and resources allow. We encourage implementation of these proposals as quickly as resources permit.

We offer ideas in these categories:

- A. Designation of main entrance**
- B. Exterior signage**
- C. Exterior landscaping**
- D. Exterior/other**
- E. Interior general aesthetics**
- F. Interior plantscaping**
- G. Interior fellowship spaces**
- H. Interior signage**
- I. Interior/other**

***Goal 1.3 Category A: Designation of Main Entrance***

**Proposed actions:**

- a) Install “monument” style (on ground/not on high pole) about 5 feet high and 8/9 feet wide at southernmost drive into church parking lot from S.R. 15. Sign would have permanent identifying information and ability to include changing information (electronic/LED)
- b) Build covered entrance (porte cochere) that extends from south/Fellowship Hall entrance into the parking lot (protected drop-off spot)
- c) Add sliding double-door air lock to current south/Fellowship Hall entrance to conserve heating/cooling [this was part of original plan for this entrance/never implemented]

**Potential costs:**

- Covered entrance: \$155,000
- Sign as proposed \$25,000-\$28,000
- Double-door air lock: \$15,000

***Goal 1.3 Category B: Exterior signage***

**Proposed actions:**

- New sign along S.R. 15 (see proposal in Category A above)
- Sandblast/clean existing CMC sign in west lawn
- Label each exterior entrance to building on exterior of building (counter-clockwise beginning from west entrance, since entrances on east side or not as public?)
- Add “College Mennonite Church” above west entrance and southwestern entrance canopy so visible from west (similar to current label above south entrance)
- Move limestone cross from its current position at southwest of building to original position in front of west entrance and add three floodlights to illuminate cross and west front of building at night; trim trees in west lawn to increase visibility of west entrance

**Potential costs:**

- New road sign (see Category A above)
- Sandblast existing CMC sign—not priced
- External designations added to entrances \$350-\$1500 depending on method
- Move limestone cross/install floodlights, trim/remove trees – not priced

***Goal 1.3 Category C: Exterior landscaping***

**Proposed actions:**

- Move limestone cross/install floodlights, trim/remove some trees in west law (see Category B above)
- Clarify with GC responsibility for all regular landscaping tasks: mowing, weeding, edging, tree/bush trimming, watering for entire perimeter of CMC building
- Determine cost and process for improving ongoing attention to courtyard/Memorial Garden and vacant/unattractive landscapable areas (triangular planters at corners of building, uncurbed perimeters of river stones, etc.)
- Identify and provide for routine external maintenance tasks for Sunday mornings (e.g. blowing dirt/leaves from entrance sidewalks)

- Consider installation of “table” in courtyard for use during special services there (baptisms, etc.) [We understand there are already plans to improve technological infrastructure for use of audio in courtyard.]

**Potential costs:**

Costs not projected (would include purchase of additional plant and other landscaping material, possible equipment purchase, purchase/installation of “table” in courtyard)

**Goal 1.3 Category D: Exterior/other**

**Proposed actions:**

- Propose that Amity consider adding parking spaces on east and south sides of CMC’s front lawn like spaces on north side of front lawn

**Potential costs:**

Not projected. If approved, benefits and costs would probably be shared equally by CMC and GC

**Goal 1.3 Category E: Interior general aesthetics**

**Proposed actions:**

- Improve use of plants (see Category F)
- Use improved fellowship spaces in halls to provide focal points/variety (see Category G)
- Move coat racks from west side of south entrance to current/recessed position of “A-M” literature boxes and move all literature boxes to east-west hallway north of Fellowship Hall

**Potential costs:**

- See categories F & G for further details
- Moving coat racks and mailboxes: ca. \$900 (Zehr Construction)

**Goal 1.3 Category F: Interior landscaping**

**Proposed actions:**

- Contract with a specialty firm to provide and maintain attractive and well-chosen plants in containers that are appropriate both for the size of plant and the mid-century style of our building.

**Potential costs:**

- Startup costs: \$3,800
- Ongoing monthly costs \$190-\$230 (depending on degree of seasonal variety)

**Goal 1.3 Category G: Interior fellowship spaces**

**Proposed actions:**

- Refurbish existing fellowship spaces in alcoves and west atrium (carpeting/upholstery/furnishing choices to add color but maintain appropriate mid-century styling for building)
- Create shorter benches from existing “surplus” pews, add cushions for comfort, and place carefully (south entrance, at various points in hallway outside sanctuary)
- Create seating areas using refurbished chairs/pews and fixed carpet inside southwest entrance (between Rm. 100/church office) and outside rooms 133/34 (a “destination” visible from south & north entrances)
- Create window wall (similar to church library & front office) along Gathering Rooms north wall (and incorporate plans proposed by others prior to this planning process to have a small kitchen

area at north end of these rooms—more flexible for use by groups/CMC & external—without cost of using full CMC kitchen)

**Potential costs:**

- Upholstery for pews/chairs: \$4180
- Create ten 5-foot pews out of existing surplus pews: \$1200
- Table tops for two new tables for seating areas: \$200/each
- Several small round tables: built by CMC volunteer craftspeople?
- Carpeting for alcoves/seating areas (approx. 900 sq ft): \$5000-\$6300
- Window wall/new doors for Gathering Room: \$30,000
- Gathering Room kitchen/appliances: \$18,000 [proposal developed by an earlier group]

***Goal 1.3 Category H: Interior signage/"Welcome Centers"***

**Proposed actions:**

- Improve visibility/readability of "You are here signs" and have near all entrances
- Replace sanctuary & balcony door identification letters with more visible indicators
- Place "Peace" signs at additional points in the hallways
- Label/identify "Church Office" visibly on both sections of glass wall
- Change existing interior signs to bolder base color and clearly-contrasting lettering, most/all changed to "dropped" signs so that people don't have to search the ceiling before noticing them
- Include Spanish language on directional signs (continue braille usage as on current signs)
- Have room number sequences with arrows on signs posted on each wall corner
- Other content recommendations re named hallways (e.g. "South Hallway") and directions to major locations at each entrance
- Display restroom signs prominently
- We offer potential alternate names for "Welcome Centers" (if too confusing due to GC usage) but strongly reaffirm value of identifying/using these centers and suggest appropriate placement for each

**Potential costs:**

Costs not projected: GC uses Essential Architectural Signs, Inc.

***Goal 1.3 Category I: Interior/other***

**Proposed actions:**

Create a cloakroom by enclosing the exterior covered passageway north of Koinonia Room/south of Memorial Garden (adding additional entrance at west end). Exterior brick wall and windows facing courtyard to match existing exterior wall of Koinonia room.

**Potential costs:**

\$80,000 preliminary estimate (Zehr construction)