

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN COMMENTS

December 4, 2011

1. Why a fixed wall between pantry and kitchen? Kitchen seems small. No central island in kitchen. Define “shell space”. How will it be finished? What is the cost for this shell space compared to a bare pad/no excavation? Future use of shell space is limited by the placement of mechanical room. Can mechanical room be moved into shell space so there can be better access to shell space? A clear plan for use of shell space is needed-even if it is not built at the outset.
2. I would like sufficient height in the main auditorium to accommodate badminton at least but preferably basketball.
3. Badminton? Elevators are costly to maintain!
4. Really interested in having badminton courts.
5. Will people use the library if they don't feel it is easily accessible-also the children?
6. What about the children? Need more consideration in planning! Office space-for others beyond ministerial staff, where is it? O'Brien Room equivalent-where would this be set up to remain continuously?
7. I was concerned that the library is located on the ground floor-not handy to borrow or return books or inspire. Could part of the banquet room space be used for a library?
8. Seems like renovation is a lot less costly than tearing down and starting again.
9. Staging-for performances in the banquet hall? Congestion in door way between cloakroom and foyer. Kitchen space? Music director's office?
10. We would be going from 3 kitchens to one. I think we need two areas for food preparation especially for the church school. I don't feel that the new large common space is an appropriate space for the church school children to use during a church service especially as the large space is used for coffee after church.
11. As I cannot stay for the entire meeting I am listing what I would like to see in the information sent out:
 - a. Tear down-what would be removed-new physical vision-cost?
 - b. Complete renovation-what would it entail? Vision? Cost?
 - c. Needed renovations-again, what would it entail? Vision? Cost?
 - d. With this information sent out to all of us, I feel I could make an informed vote. Port Nelson is my spiritual home. As a

congregation, we have suffered over the past few years, losing many faces. We are healing. I rejoice in our new members. However, I really fear the disruption ahead if it divides the congregation again.

12. Washrooms are a concern.
13. Could the door to the cloakroom from the gathering space be changed to an open archway? Several other churches I have been part of have had an open cloakroom.
14. I think that there should be a comprehensive plan for the renovation option to show it is not viable, doesn't meet priorities.
15. I don't think that rentals for large outside functions are necessary. There are lots of for profit facilities available. The east portion of fellowship hall does not seem necessary. I would like to see other lower cost options.
16. I think the bathroom and kitchen areas would be too small. What type of roof will be over the new construction: flat or sloped? We need better access to cloakroom areas.
17. What is the storage room on the main floor used for? There is a need for at least two more offices for M&P and book keeper and others. Was this considered?
18. I am totally in favour of making the church physically accessible and greener- but I am not in favour of this particular solution. I would like a more cost effective approach.
19. With no gym plan this does not work for adults or youth. Library should be on main floor. Cost is impossible for this congregation.
20. I am concerned with the size of the kitchen.
21. Is there a chance to have a smaller kitchen on the lower level-or at least a multi purpose area with appliances, sinks etc.
22. It seems that a lot of admin-kitchen etc space has been sacrificed in order to make a very large entry area into small east end rental area and that entry is not even fully accessible. Please consider enlarging kitchen and admin space and decreasing that entry space.
23. Re: handicap access: we need to recognize that wheelchairs currently have non-elevator access from south drive. We should plan a north eastern South Drive door access to the fellowship hall eastern end for wheel chairs so the partitioned room is fully accessible.
24. We will be away. Is information going to be on the web?
25. How much is it going to cost?

26. The proposed plan for new facilities was very well presented. As I reflected on the plan, I thought about the groups who use our facility. At present, the cubs and scouts use the upper Auditorium. Somehow I can't imagine them in either of the proposed gathering spaces playing, running around, and throwing balls. I wonder if from a safety aspect throwing balls around would be a good thing in rooms with gas fireplaces.

I thought about Gord giving out food vouchers and Port Nelson having formal rooms with fireplaces. I have a hard time reconciling those two things. To me, adding two fireplaces give these rooms too much of a country club atmosphere. My vision of Port Nelson is not that of a country club. I understand that the architect thinks that the rooms will be easier to rent out if there are fireplaces to create ambiance, but I hope we are not trying to compete with venues like the Burlington Golf and Country Club for revenue.

My vision would include a chapel and/or a library on the ground floor as better expressing the values of Port Nelson.

The items in green were verbal comments received on Sunday, December 18th before and after church. John Zinkie

27. The cloakroom is too narrow to allow full access to the main washrooms.
28. Has the impact to the congregation and operations in general been investigated with respects to building new? The congregation needs to understand that impact and any relayed costs in order to make an informed decision.
29. With full accessibility to the lower church level, has the need or requirement for unassisted (no elevator) emergency egress been investigated?
30. Will the feasibility of geothermal exchange to supplement the heating and air conditioning be investigated?
31. Has any consideration been given to accommodating on-site green energy generation and delivery to the electrical grid?
32. When are you (NFI) going to give it up!? Good luck finding the money! (This is from an old "pillar" of the congregation). The vocal minority verses the silent majority.

33. Can consideration be given to accommodating people who need to use wider than average wheelchairs? My mother cannot come to church anymore because all entranceway doors are too narrow.

The comments in red were spoken to June on Sunday Dec. 18th.

34. We need to choose an option and then see if we can fund it.

35. It is a great idea to have the fellowship hall and look at gaining rental income so that the whole running of the church is not totally from the congregation. The plan looks very good. The place really needs to be fixed up, look around you!

36. How can we even consider building something when our country and the European countries are so in debt? What kind of legacy are we leaving our children and grand children? When June says "doing nothing is not an option" it sounds to "us" as if we have to vote for this plan. Are we going to have a vote when the snow birds are away? Will there be a way for all to vote, not just at a congregational meeting when not everyone is there? Will the vote wording be clear and simple?

37. If we go with this plan we need to have windows in the shell space so that it may be developed down the road. Perhaps scouts could use it for ball hockey etc.

The following comments were made to Michael during visits Dec. 11-18th.

1. An older man in the church said, "I thought the meeting (town hall on Dec. 4) went very well, and I've talked to several others who feel the same way. If this is the right direction to go in, then we will find the money. I'm pleased that this feels like progress has been made, and something is being done to address the issues. I think it is a good idea to leave the costing discussion until the end when we have a better sense of the direction in which we are going. Good job to the team."

2. Another older man who is no longer able to attend worship but has been extremely active and pivotal here:

"This is an important and large decision that should not be rushed. The questions about possibilities need to be answered to satisfy those asking them. However, when I look at it all, it seems the only way to really get what is needed is to rebuild part of the building. I would hate to spend a lot of money on what we have, only to have to eventually tear it down in 5 or 10 years because it wasn't what we really needed."

Other comments received:

- There are no change facilities for babies at the church also no private places for nursing mothers.
- There should be a separate nursery area for young children.
- Is there consideration being given to making a new space accommodating for someone with visual impairments?