

Accessibility update 2010

April 04, 2010

Barry and I met with Mark Hughes of the Stevens Group on Wednesday to view his drawings. We discovered that he had gone back to the drawing board and come up with a concept that we have seen in part previously. It involves building on the staff house side and front of the existing church. Offices would be across the front facing Woodlawn Rd., expanded Narthax, provision for new kitchen, reasonably good storage, nursery on sanctuary level, washrooms both levels.

His suggestion was to eliminate the steps to the hall on the staff house side by lowering the entrance, we felt that would not work well so he is going to change that. He was trying to get more window space in the back of the addition, we felt he could do that by using wider and shorter windows and he agreed. He also had a one level section to avoid covering a stained glass window, we suggested we needed that space on both levels and that the window could be backlit.

Mark is away until Tuesday, has promised to have a set of drawings in my hands by next Friday. The plan would be for our committee to study those, make recommendations or approve and he will get full drawings and estimated costs ready for a congregational meeting.

Having looked at many drawings over seven years it is quite difficult to now spend an hour looking at a new concept and form a solid opinion but these plans look to be the most economical of any we have seen. Do they address all our needs? Not likely but they may address the most important ones. It does offer opportunity to secure the building quite nicely and puts the elevator in a good position.

If we can turn it around quickly I believe Mark sees a window of opportunity for him to move quickly also.

Ralph