

**NOTES ON THE MEETING OF THE SITE SELECTION AND BUILDING PROGRAM COMMITTEE OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN (UCC) ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1999 AT 7:30 p.m. AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN (UCC), AUSTIN, TEXAS.**

Members present: Vic Appel, David Ashton (Co-Chair), Sharon Brown, Paul Deisler (Co-Chair), Cathy Hubbs, Beverly Lawson, ex officio, Sara Ross, Jim Tomasek.

Members not present: Jamie Adams, Michael Adams, Jean Appel, Fran Briggs, Suzanne Bradford, Pat Oakes, Mary Sinclair.

Call to order and general remarks. Paul Deisler called the meeting to order. Beverly Lawson offered the opening prayer.

Purpose of the meeting. The meeting was called to outline a report of the Committee to record the information and experience acquired by the Committee for use in the future when the site selection process begins again following the deferral recently voted into effect by the Congregation.

Report on the October 19, 1999 Coordinating Council meeting with Gary Roberts of the UCC, Cleveland and the October 20, 1999 drive to show Gary Roberts some of the key sites found. On October 19, Gary Roberts said two things relevant to the financing of the purchase of a new site: (1) as an example, if a site is to be purchased for, say, \$600,000, a loan could be approved to cover the entire \$600,000 cost but the borrower could be required to have in hand cash and pledges of as much as \$200,000 before approval; and (2) in discussing our Church's ability to repay, he would advise us to not purchase land worth more than about \$300,000 to \$400,000. There is an apparent anomaly here which will need to be resolved when the site search is resumed a year-and-a-half to two years from now.

His impressions of several sites visited on October 20 were as follows: (1) 4807 South Congress: only all right if our Church wishes to dedicate itself to reaching out to and integrating with the immediate neighborhood (like Friends Church in College Station); (2) Stearns at Highway 71: too small, later funds could be loaned if we were able to purchase adjacent land, overall not a prepossessing site; (3) William Cannon east of Brodie Lane: too long and narrow, location on fast street not good, did not like it; (4) Old Bee Caves Road (accessible from Southwest Parkway via Clark Travis): poor site (not easily found, distant from much of the Congregation, not at all "visible"); (5) east side of Highway 183, south of Highway 290: the best of the lot, overall (something smaller on the east side might be better); (6) northeast corner of Highway 183 and MLK, with a 30,000 ft<sup>2</sup>, never-occupied strip mall building on it: not as visible as number (5) but a good, large site (if a bank owns it, regardless of the large asking price, make an open offer at

the local, per acre land price (with nothing for the building which would have to be demolished) -- we might have to wait a while, but we might get it); (7) East Hill Drive, parallel to MoPac and south of Far West: too small, too many "ifs" (if shared parking can be negotiated, if higher than usual impervious coverage can be obtained, etc...), likely to leave the Congregation in another future squeeze. Gary Roberts was very helpful and forthcoming; future work with him should be fruitful.

Organizing the Committee report. Paul Deisler handed out a list of possible subjects the report might cover; Dave Ashton then led a discussion of the listed items and others to organize the report. Dave wrote the organization, as it developed, on 2X3 ft. sheets of paper for later recording. When the organization of the report was complete, several of the individuals present accepted assignments to write sections of the report; these assignments were recorded on the 2X3 ft. sheets.

The eventual report is intended to consist of three types of reports: a full report having extensive appendices of data and information, copies to be on file at the Church for interested readers and the Committee's future information; a smaller report to be included in the Annual report in January; and an Executive Summary for those wishing a quick overview. The following action items were then agree to:

**ACTION #1:** Dave Ashton will have the 2X3 ft. sheets typed and sent to Committee members as soon as possible.

**ACTION #2:** Those who accepted writing assignments are to give their drafts to Dave Ashton or Paul Deisler by **December 1, 1999** for assembly into a first, rough draft report.

**ACTION #3:** Dave Ashton and Paul Deisler will assemble the rough draft report and have it sent (without the extensive appendices) to Committee members for their written inputs.

**ACTION #4:** Committee members will be requested to turn in their written inputs to Dave Ashton or Paul Deisler by **December 15, 1999**.

**ACTION #5:** Dave Ashton and Paul Deisler will finalize the report(s) by **January 15, 2000**.

**NEXT MEETING.** It was agreed by all present that the writing and editing of the report(s) will not require another meeting. There will therefore be no new meeting in the near future.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, Jim Tomasek offered a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.