

LAIRD HALL TASK FORCE (LHTF)

SUMMARY OF DATA

CONGREGATION SURVEYS

The LHTF comprised of Bill Corrette, Keith Lentz, Don Ebersole, Larry Flickinger and Monica Cadwallader-Olsker, made the following summative assessments after reviewing and evaluating the congregation's surveys. These summary statements were derived from the contrasts and correlations made between the quantitative and qualitative data components of the survey.

1. The data reveals there is a need to do something to improve the aesthetics of Laird Hall to make it a more appealing and welcoming environment for the congregation, the people visiting LVHPC and for our neighboring community. There was consensus that a new or remodeled building needs to be aesthetically appealing.
2. The data reveals there is a need for a larger space for congregational events and fellowship to take place. The emphasis was more on the mission statement component of "growing together". There was a consistent message that a strong congregational fellowship community equips people to "share God's love with neighbors near and far".
3. The data reveals that a remodel is preferable over a tear down and rebuild approach. The driving factor for this opinion appears to be mostly driven by the larger financial burden associated with new building construction.
4. There was a consensus people are willing to financially support this project. 51% of respondents said that they would consider financially supporting it and 42% of the respondents said they were not sure at this time. Only 7% of respondents indicated that they would not financially support the project.
5. The data reveals that the use of this building for youth programs should be a strong consideration if and when developing a structural plan for a remodel or new building.
6. The data reveals that the restrooms need to be improved and more accessible for the elderly and people with disabilities.
7. The data reveals that there is a need for a kitchen with upgraded appliances, cabinets and supplies that will support fellowship events.
8. The data reveals that there is a need for a good audio visual system that can be used for large fellowship events and to some extent for smaller ministry group activities.
9. The data reveals a lack of interest for a Library. The Library was mentioned several times as a comfortable setting and welcoming space for meetings rather than a resource center.

GROUP SURVEYS

Only 10 of 21 surveys were returned. The due date for the group surveys was after the Coronavirus isolation order went into effect, which is likely the reason for so few being returned. The group meetings

to discuss group needs were canceled due to the Coronavirus isolation order. There were also group surveys that indicated that they had no need to use Laird Hall for their ministry team but nevertheless made comments about the need for its improvement. Although the group statistical data collection is very low, the data that was collected showed similar results between the group surveys and congregational surveys. The only area of divergence was in the need for smaller group settings in Laird Hall in the future.

CONCLUSIONS

There is a strong desire by the congregation and ministry/groups to improve Laird Hall. 51% of those surveyed indicated that they would consider financially supporting the project, 42% responded that they were not sure and only 7% responded that they would not. That is very significant and is an indicator of the congregation's interest in the project. Indicators reveal that in order to increase the number of people willing to financially support this project it must be for the purpose of increasing fellowship church wide.

There was strong emphasis on two components of this survey. First, Laird Hall needs to be enlarged to provide for better large group gatherings and for the need to improve the aesthetics of the building to make it a more welcoming environment. The underlying and consistent message, however, is the need for increased congregational fellowship. Although the surveys were focused exclusively on the congregational input and desire for a Laird Hall structural improvements, the data has revealed valuable information for Session to consider. The surveys were not intended as a tool to assess church needs other than for improving Laird Hall. However, the surveys do send a clear message that fellowship is something that the congregation is requesting and desiring. The data is clear that increased large and small group fellowship opportunities should be the driving force behind any Laird Hall project.

The other conclusion drawn from the data is that the congregation is concerned about the expense of constructing a new building compared to a remodel approach. The main emphasis on any work done to Laird Hall should be with enlarging the open space and making it multifunctional to be easily modified for small group meetings/gatherings to take place as well. The additional concepts of having a functional and well equipped kitchen and improved restrooms with easy access are also critical components of a Laird Hall remodel.

Finally, the message communicated through the surveys is clear that the aesthetics of the building needs to be a strong consideration in the planning for improvements to Laird Hall.