

Beyond 50

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The Beyond 50 Plan

As reported at the Fall Parish Assembly on October 23, we have either completed or commenced work on all aspects of the original Plan, with the exception of three remaining facility enhancement projects - the Narthex Gateway, ADA Accessibility, and the Small Hall. We are currently finalizing plans and costs for all three. Renderings have been submitted to the City of Novato to begin a design review process. Here is a closer look into these exciting projects:



A Front Entrance and Drop Off

“Where is the church?” Where is the bathroom?” These are common questions by visitors, and the Narthex Gateway will provide a divine presence for our house of worship with a safe drop-off area to be used for our seniors, limousines for weddings, or hearses for funerals.

Enlarged Dome

In an effort to pursue all possibilities, enlarging the dome is being researched to understand what the cost would be, and to engage the parish to see if this is desired by our stewards. Including this new idea in the drawings now will avoid having to go back to the City of Novato at a later date for approval. It will only be pursued if approved by the parish and sufficient funds are received.



Lifted Choir Loft

To accommodate the new entrance, the choir loft will be raised and the existing narthex will become an extension of the nave. Also depicted is the interior space if the dome is enlarged.

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“Walk of Faith”

Beginning from the new drop-off area in front of the church will be a path connecting to the back patios. This will be an opportunity to fully connect our entire campus as well as provide a path for ecclesiastical processions such as Great Friday.



To connect the elevator with the office building, a small bridge will be built from just beneath the overhang. This will allow an easy course of travel from church services to the Fellowship Hall and outdoor patios.

Small Hall/Outdoor Pavilion

Costs were a major factor in simplifying the plans from a new Small Hall to an Outdoor Pavilion. The simplified, open-air pavilion now has a dramatically lower estimated cost.



ADA Accessibility: Elevator

An elevator and ramp were both thoroughly researched, but an elevator is ultimately being pursued since this was the preferred solution by the majority of parishioners in need of ADA accessibility. A ramp, although also effective, would require removal and reworking of the landscaping bed closest to the Fellowship Hall with an additional 130 feet of paved walkway to ensure the legally required slope.



The new design also offers an openness to the surrounding space and has the potential of being enclosed at a later time.

Next Beyond 50 Update

The goal is to update the community as soon as bids for the large projects have been finalized. The next formal gathering will be the Spring Parish Assembly, tentatively scheduled for Sunday, February 26, 2023.