

October 1, 2017: Redevelopment Update for the Brechin Congregation

Last Thursday, September 28, the Redevelopment team met with our Vancouver representatives: Maranatha Coulas (VIA architect), Terry Harrison (Property Resource team lead for BC Conference) and Mike Redmond, Development Manager, Colliers International.

During our two-hour meeting, five items were covered:

1. **Passive Housing:** This is an energy saving approach that has been used in Europe for 20 years. It lowers energy consumption through improvements in construction. Building Brechin as an accredited Passive Housing project will lower operating costs due to higher levels of insulation, thicker walls and well insulated window frames including triple panes.
2. **Parking:** With change comes challenge and this is one issue that has been discussed and reviewed extensively. The Vancouver team continues to do the most they can to offer as many parking stalls as possible. Due to cost, there will not be two underground levels. There will be 89 stalls underground, 9 on the surface and 8 on the street. This does not include parking next door at the school and at the Midas service centre on the corner. A written agreement will be set up with them. This leads me to YOU...how do you come to church? Are you alone in a vehicle? Are you with one other or do you car pool? Does someone drop you off? Do you have any suggestions that could be considered?
3. **Church floor plan:** Maranatha and her team of architects reviewed all of your “must haves” and “would like to have” on the list sent from the congregational meeting held here last May, 2017. They redesigned a new floor plan and presented it to us on Thursday. I have that draft for you to see. We’re confident you won’t be disappointed. The plan includes durable flooring with no carpets, a commercially designed kitchen with a dishwasher as well as a washer and dryer, a Chapel and private washroom located very close to the minister’s office, an indoor labyrinth, storage for chairs, tables and choir music, and dividable and small group meeting spaces, one that will include our library. The Sanctuary will have flexible seating for up to 150, and a portable stage. The planning of the sanctuary space including the sound, lighting and audio/visual components is not yet complete.
4. **City Approvals:** The City of Nanaimo has already approved the change in rezoning for this space. The next steps will be a submission

for a Design Permit to the City, by October 31, 2017 and a Building Permit submission by February, 2018. **We are hopeful all will be approved, allowing us to vacate this building in early April, 2018 just after our Easter celebration.** Before leaving, we will certainly go through the church noting what we will keep, store, move to a rental facility, sell, give away or leave for demolition. **Construction is expected to begin in June, 2018 and last for approximately 16 -18 months.**

5. **Relocation:** What's next? Tim Scorer who worked with us at the beginning of this journey, will be invited to return to assist us with the transition. Work has already begun to inform local churches and the school board about our need for a rental space. A Nanaimo Colliers broker has been contacted. Ideally, we'd prefer to be in one building allowing our Sunday worship, rentals and offices to be located under one roof but we are open to all possibilities. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to speak to Randy Manikel or email the church. We have also invited Terry, Maranatha and Mike to Brechin for a presentation, early in the New Year.