



Above: 3-D rendition of 'Rebuild' design concept from Stevens. Not a final plan. See larger print in Prince of Peace.

RLC FACILITIES STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

At an August 30 Special Congregation Meeting, our congregation voted to have Meier Architecture and Engineering develop the RLC Facilities Strategic Plan using a 'Rebuild' path forward. The Facilities Building Committee is currently busy reviewing the Meier draft strategic plan and writing a companion document explaining how the strategic plan could be implemented. Our congregation will vote on the strategic plan and the companion document before any future steps are taken. The following information addresses common questions Facilities Building Committee members have heard from our congregation during the last several months. We hope the answers are helpful to you, as we go forward together.

Q Why is our congregation developing a Facilities Strategic Plan? Who told us we need a Facilities Strategic Plan?

A We (our congregation) said we needed a Facilities Strategic Plan when we approved the RLC Long Range Plan in 2013 and its update in 2014. Objective 6 of *Our Guide for Today, Our Vision for Tomorrow* calls for a Facilities Strategic Plan to ensure our facilities continue to meet our ministry needs.



Please feel free to contact any one of us to discuss these or other topics. In Christ's love,
Facilities Building Committee Members Russ Warren,
Karin Nickola, Dave Larkin, Jon Erlandson,
Tom Pitkin, Eric Schmieman, and Steve Moritz

You may also email us at:
rlcbuilding@richlandlutheran.org

Q Why were there only two choices ('Remodel' and 'Rebuild') at the August 30 Special Congregation Meeting? Why wasn't there a 'minimal facility upgrade' option?

A In deciding what to do with our facilities, our congregation can choose to replace our current facilities ('Rebuild') or to work with the facilities we currently have ('Remodel'). Within these two categories, there are a wide range of possibilities. 'Minimal facility upgrade' would be part of the 'Remodel' category. If our congregation **approves** the Facilities Strategic Plan to follow the 'Rebuild' path forward, members will have a chance to help design new facilities ranging from small to large, plain to elaborate — whatever we all decide is best for our current and future ministries. If our congregation **does not approve** the Facilities Strategic Plan to follow the 'Rebuild' path forward, members will have to determine what to do with the existing facilities to address our ministry needs — from maintenance and repairs to added space.



Above: 3-D rendition of ‘Rebuild’ design **concept** from **Kimball**. **Not** a final plan. See larger print in Prince of Peace.

Q Our ministries seem to be doing just fine in our facilities. Why do we need new facilities?

A The bottom line is, *the effectiveness of our current ministries is limited in our aging facilities*. Our Sacristy, Good News Media Ministry, Vacation Bible School, Sewing Bees Ministry, Music Ministry, and Food Pantry could really use more or different space. We need larger bathrooms and better space for storage, spiritual growth events, and new ministries. Meier validated our need for more and different space in their professional assessment of RLC facilities. Besides space limitations, our 60-year-old facility systems are failing at an escalating rate and will need to be repaired or replaced. Improved safety and accessibility (e.g. better egress, better parking, a fire suppression system) are also critical upgrade drivers.



Q We are a mission church. Shouldn't we spend our money on ministries, not new facilities?

A As a mission church, our congregation is committed to preserving funding for ongoing ministries, while securing funds for facility upgrades. It is important to understand that our facilities enable other ministries and, as such, *they are a ministry*. Our facilities are essential to conducting our ministries, and they ‘speak’ to passersby and visitors about who we are and what we value. Our unusual architecture, our well-kept grounds, our signs announcing services and special events, our stained glass windows, our well-kept interiors, our crosses and images of Jesus, our Bibles and song books all glorify God and point people to Him. The RLC Long Range Plan discusses the role of the

church in our lives and lists objectives for us to achieve — including ensuring our facilities continue to meet the needs of our ministries.

Q Why did Meier base the ‘Rebuild’ and ‘Remodel’ design concepts on extravagant desires rather than needs?

A Meier’s design concepts were based on *only 22 criteria* deemed to have the greatest impact on our ministries. The criteria came from an 18-page spreadsheet of desires and needs gathered from the congregation in 2014. The RLC council, RLC ministry leads, Facilities Building Committee members, and Meier consolidated and prioritized the suggestions. Meier also used the *National Institute of Building Sciences’ Whole Building Design Guide*, code requirements, and their professional regional church experiences to develop the design concepts. RLC asked Meier to provide concept sizing and a ‘ballpark’ (rough order of magnitude) cost for upgrading facilities without constraining ministries.

Q If we pursue the ‘Rebuild’ path forward, will we borrow money and go into debt? We aren’t meeting annual operating budgets.

A The rough order of magnitude cost estimates Meier provided to RLC were based on ‘Means’ estimating guidelines. They reflect the cost realities of today. Prior to construction, our congregation would work together with an architect to develop a detailed design based on agreed-upon features and costs. The Facilities Building Committee does not endorse borrowing money in the near future — and certainly not more than we could comfortably afford. RLC history shows that our congregation has the capacity to meet ministry needs *and* fund large, long-term efforts. ‘Rebuilding’ would require various fundraising methods. The Facilities Building Committee advocates initiating fundraising immediately and performing construction only when our congregation is ready.