

10/8/61

REPORT OF SURVEY COMMITTEE

TO THE OFFICIAL BOARD OF DUKE MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH:

Seventy-five years ago forty-four Methodists joined together and organized what is now Duke Memorial Methodist Church. Over the years the church has grown and prospered. Our generation has participated in a church program carried on in a physical plant planned and paid for by earlier generations. Only a very few of the present members of our church have had any part in its building program. We have inherited generously from prior generations. It is now time for us to consider doing something ourselves which we can both enjoy and use, and thereby be better able to serve our present and future membership.

In October we will celebrate our seventy-fifth anniversary with a membership of approximately 1900. This celebration seems to be an almost providential challenge for us to begin to plan for an additional educational building and the renovation and remodelling of a part of our existing buildings. We should also make plans to raise the necessary funds for the building program.

In order that your Survey Committee might have specific information concerning our present and future needs, the Commission on Education, with the assistance of several educational fact finding committees, made a careful study of our needs and prepared an excellent and lucid report. From this report and from our first-hand observation, your Survey Committee has concluded our present needs to be as follows:

1. THE SUNDAY SCHOOL: The Children's Division is generally housed in crowded quarters, the quality of which should be improved. The groups especially crowded are the toddlers, the two-year old nursery, the three-year old nursery, and the five-year old kindergarten. In the next decade the primary and junior classes will be crowded and in need of additional space. There are now 290 members in this division.

Both the junior high and senior high classes are now conducted in an inadequate space. These groups are increasing in numbers and in the next few years will require significant additional space. The present enrollment of 173 members poses a major problem for our church due to the large fluctuation in regular attendance. Better and enlarged facilities for this group will aid us in keeping their interest in the church.

Probably, the present most critical space problem is the deplorable situation which exists in the Older Youth and Young Adult areas. The rooms which they use are antiquated, poorly designed and in relatively poor repair. Additional space here is a must.

As a "downtown church," we must make every effort to attract and hold the young people who might otherwise move to suburban churches. As one of the larger churches of our Conference, we cannot continue to lag behind in our Sunday School facilities.

2. FELLOWSHIP HALL AND MODERN KITCHEN: A church of approximately 1900 members is in almost constant need of a fellowship hall. This room should be large enough to accommodate 300 persons at tables or 450 persons for assemblies and meetings. A stage in the room will enhance its usefulness. A modern efficient kitchen should be located adjacent to this facility. We cannot point with pride to our present kitchen facilities. They must be improved.

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3. CHURCH PARLOR: A church parlor is a multi-purpose room and is important to every church's program. Receptions and a number of Women's activities are considered typical program assignments for this space.

4. SCOUTING AND OTHER YOUTH ACTIVITIES SPACE: Duke Memorial Church has an illustrious heritage in Scouting. While physical space is not the primary ingredient in a successful program for Boy and Girl Scouting, it is important and necessary. Fruitful leisure time activity which provides sound training for our youth should be given adequate and attractive space.

5. A CHAPEL: Serious consideration should be given to building or remodeling our present building so as to make available a dignified, warm chapel for smaller church services of worship and meditation. Such a chapel will be well suited for weddings and funerals.

6. A CHURCH LIBRARY: Our church has no adequate library of source materials for its Sunday School teachers and there are no books available for circulation to members who wish to continue enjoying the satisfactions of self education. Christianity is vitally concerned with both heart and mind.

7. CHURCH OFFICES: The church's administrative offices should be consolidated and centralized. While the present offices are reasonably adequate, they are not of modern design.

It is the considered judgment of your Survey Committee that our total church program for the present and the reasonable future growth will require additional building space of 25,000 square feet. In addition thereto the present educational section of our main building should be completely renovated as much of the present space is in such condition that the program of our church is being seriously handicapped..

Your Committee enthusiastically recommends:

1. The construction of a modern educational building that will contain about 25,000 square feet;
2. The complete renovation of our present Christian Education facilities and that consideration be given the report of the Committee on Education; and
3. That appropriate committees be appointed without delay for the purpose of making effective the above recommendations.

One of the noblest expressions of man is the building of a house of worship. Our needs are great and the challenge is larger, and we trust that the official board and the congregation of Duke Memorial Methodist Church will accept and meet the challenge which is ours.

Respectfully submitted,

The Survey Committee

Marshall T. Spears, Chairman

September 5

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