

11/9/09 :: Construction Update

On November 5th the Campus Project Oversight Team sponsored a Community Information meeting to present the Bard Hall Replacement Project to our neighbors and to members of the local Planning Group, the Uptown Planners. Hopefully in December this project will be presented to the Uptown Planners for their input to the Planning Commission as a part of the process of obtaining a Development Permit from the City of San Diego. The goal of the meeting was to allow community members and significant stakeholders in our congregation to become informed about our plans for campus renewal, including the replacement of Bard Hall, improvements to the patio and to campus infrastructure so when the project is presented to the Planning Group, community members will be aware of the project and will have had an opportunity to ask questions and to understand the project. While few community members attended, many church members were there and the presentation was well received.

The highlights of the topics discussed at the meeting are as follows:

- Additional restroom facilities will be added on the lower floor, and a total of three additional unisex restrooms, which are transgender and family friendly, will be added to the middle and upper floors. The footprint of the kitchen will be a bit larger than the current kitchen. Our art gallery space will be expanded into the hallways on each floor in addition to the north wall of the main meeting room.
- In recognition of our congregation's commitment to protecting the environment wherever possible, the following "green" features have been incorporated into our plans:
 - The building will have a durable roof that is designed to keep the building cool and last 100 years.
 - Passive ventilation and natural lighting will be introduced to the building to reduce our ongoing energy use.
 - Demolition will be done with an eye towards salvaging as much material as possible, so that suitable material will be reused on-site, and if not needed for our project, it will be recycled in the community.
- The square footage of the building will be increased by more than 24% by adding a third level. This will give us two offices and three meeting rooms upstairs, two meeting rooms and a workroom on the middle floor, and three meeting spaces on the lower floor, the largest of which is similar in size to the existing Bard Hall.
- A portion of the exterior finish will mirror the Memorial Wall, and the entire building will be in scale with the Meeting House.
- A rain-proof cover will be provided over the Meeting House entrance and Book Room Sales area.
- We received feedback on our initial submission to the City on November 5th. Our professionals began working on the required changes right away. The architects have been under contract to prepare the final construction drawings and documents since early November, and it is hoped that the building permit and contract preparation can be completed so demolition can take place between March and May.