Week 1: Foundational Principles

I. Why Church Buildings Matter

A. God has used and will use buildings to communicate Himself to us. Architecture and artistry are important to God (Exodus 25-27; 1 Kings 5-6; Ezra 1-6; Ezekiel 40-47; Revelation 21).

B. The physical world matters. God has deemed creation "good" and uses nature to communicate Himself to us (Genesis 1; Psalm 19:1-6; Romans 1:19-20).

C. Life is a story—God’s story—and all of us are in the story. Our church has a story. Every story has a setting, and the setting sets the tone for the story. What tone do we want our setting to convey?

D. Settings have an unconscious, emotional affect upon our brains that influences our mood.
   - Humans tend to make judgments about a new place in the first 7 seconds.
   - First impressions tend to be lasting impressions that stick.
   - “We shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us.” — Winston Churchill
   - “A picture is worth a thousand words.” — modern proverb
   - “Built place will evoke an emotional response.” — Tim Cool

II. What Buildings Cannot Do

A. Save people... But they can be obstacles to people hearing the gospel. (1 Cor. 9:12)
B. Get more people... But they can block people from coming. (2 Cor. 6:3)
C. Increase giving... But a project can inspire “free will” gifts that God loves. (2 Cor. 9:7)
D. Disciple people... But they can provide a more conducive setting for discipleship. (Luke 22:7ff)

III. Generational Unity, Generational Sacrifice, and Granada’s Vision

A. “Generational Unity in the Body of Christ,” by Jason Ko, Senior Pastor of Community Presbyterian Church of La Mirada (See backside).


C. Two questions to ponder: (1) Are we being good ancestors? (2) Are we honoring our elders?

IV. People are More Important than the Project

A. How we treat one another through this process is eternal. The buildings are temporary.

B. God’s greatest desire is a growing unity among His people: Ephesians 4:1-16; John 17:20-26.

C. The central importance of prayer: Psalm 127:1-2
How we got to where we are today, Part 1

**Vision Committee:** Once the Elders decided to sell South Campus (due to high maintenance costs, our desire to have the youth groups at our main campus, and the desire from the school to buy the property), they thought it would be wise to assemble a vision team to put together some initial ideas for improving our main campus facilities with the funds from the sale. The vision team consisted of Mike Sanborn, Philip and Abigail Stevens, Pat Elfelt, Lori Way, Don and Kathy Little, Murrie Alcorn, and Camille Chartier. The vision team met for about 7 months and had some wide-ranging conversations about ideas and dreams for the church facilities. The team even developed some general concepts. In the end, we narrowed our scope to set some priorities based on our assessment of how our campus could improve and what a renovation would need to accomplish. We shared this list with the congregation at an Elder Coffee about a year and a half ago:

**Specific Needs and Improvements Suggested for a Renovation Project:**

1. Accommodate Junior High and High School Ministries

2. Accommodate Children's Ministries in light of future growth
   - Improve pre-school playground
   - Centralized kid's check-in and pick-up spot
   - Expand preschool rooms
   - Provide central meeting room for VBS and K-5 meetings
   - Access to lawn for activities
   - Proximity to sanctuary
   - Ideally, put facilities in one building, on one floor

3. Replace lawn space from South Campus
   - Provide grassy area (for Snow day, VBS, chili cook offs, youth football, etc.)
   - Preferably visible from the street

4. Improve upon the inefficient layout of our B-building

5. Revise courtyard layout
   - Provide clear destination pathways to children's center, adult fellowship groups, and sanctuary
   - Better facilitate outdoor activities such as VBS, missions conferences, booth sign-ups, welcome area, wedding receptions, sunrise services, etc.

6. Larger Banquet/Reception Hall
   - Better accommodate potlucks, wedding and memorial receptions, banquets, and a possible coffee shop
   - Kitchen upgrades

7. Update Church exterior
   - Enhance curb appeal to draw in the community

8. Update sanctuary
   - Improve drama, sound, and video capabilities
Renovation Committee: For the next step, the elders formed a renovation committee to assess and to begin implementing the improvements suggested by the vision committee. The renovation committee is chaired by Pat Elfelt and consists of Mike Sanborn, Kurt Plubell, Cheryl Melendez, Murrie Alcorn, Kathy Little, and Bob Miller. Initially we thought that we could handle the project “in house” using our own people, but as we progressed, we believed that God was leading us to hire an architect and building firm because of the scope of the project. We ended up hiring a highly recommended company called Building God’s Way (www.bgwservices.com). In November, we had a 3-night design retreat, called a charette, with architect Don Mahoney from BGW. Here we discussed with Don the general ideas and priorities that we had gathered so far, and Don helped us to arrive at an overall design concept. We also had invited some more people from Granada to participate in this charette to get some added perspectives. These people were John Kuykendall, Zoro Mer, Ranny Kentfield, Teri Elfelt, Anita Finley, Lori Way, Philip and Abigail Stevens, Rachel Alcorn, and Justin Francis.

First Overall Design Concept: Don Mahoney has written down for us what he gleaned from the charette, and what led his thinking to a first attempt at an overall design concept:

“What we heard was the need to become more oriented towards creating architecture that reflects an open and welcoming community towards those that would perhaps now view the architecture as a little closed or cloistered. In the past and most recent years we have seen church architecture lean more towards a "community center" approach in which people are brought into a hub type of space. Once within the hub, hopefully they will be received by a body of people that are open to forming connections to these visitors. That space ought to offer many options for connecting to ministries or to individuals or simply to getting needs met. That implies good visual access to things such as entry to worship, coffee, kids check-in areas, open or small group gathering areas, multi-use areas such as Joy Hall, and the library. This is the space that is the family room where the church body "hangs out” together. This should be a connecting space so architecture should be inviting and attractive in terms that people of today's culture can see. That is tricky as cultural norms and expectations shift so quickly so the space needs to be transformative through things like culture. Common though will be good natural lighting, colors that work in today's world, visually accessible from the outside, and equipped with the ability to change the space through different furnishings and set-ups depending on the need. One night the hub space could be used as a cafe for an acoustic concert venue and the next day it might be used as space for several small groups to meet. Of course on the Sabbath it is vital and active space for all to enjoy together. We have also linked this to good quality outdoor space and architecture that blurs the line of interior and exterior. We want people to come together outdoors as well but in a manner that is safe for kids. It should also be a space that can be an extension of the indoor space should there be the occasion for food events., etc.”

The first design concept that Don and his team created, that the renovation committee, the elders, and a group of leaders have liked, will be presented next week.
Financial concerns lead us to reconsider overall design: Throughout the design process for this first design, we had set a budget of 2.5 to 3 million dollars, which was the amount of money that we had from the sale of South Campus, plus what we anticipate receiving for the North Lot. It was assumed by all that the cost of the project was going to fall within these numbers. We presented the first design concept to a group of about 50 leaders at Granada in March and received their feedback and support for the plan, along with some concerns about the details. The biggest concern has been, understandably, “What is this going to cost?”

Well, we have received the estimates for this first design concept, and they are significantly higher than what we believe that we should spend. Also, the finance committee has recommended a more conservative budget for the project. As a result, the elders have decided to set a budget of $2.4 million. The renovation committee asked BGW for a second design that will not exceed our budget. This second design will also be presented next week.

The Purpose of this Elective: We believe that God has purposes for our church that are much bigger than the buildings. His grander purpose is to transform our hearts to become more like Jesus. We believe that through a process of open dialogue, invited through this elective course, God will build more unity, trust, kindness, and love among us. Plus, through the added input from the congregation, God may lead us to some new practical ideas that can greatly benefit the church and thereby bring more glory to God.

Throughout the process, the renovation team has been seeking to honor the Lord through prayer for his guidance, a desire to be good stewards of His resources, concern for the needs and desires of every person at Granada, and concern for those in our community who do not know Jesus and to whom we are called to bear witness of Him. We have been seeking and have received a lot of good input already. We also realize that it will be impossible to make everyone happy with a design, but we still seek unity and love in the Lord as a top priority.

The Discussion Plan: We have selected a particular portion of the campus facilities to discuss each week. We believe that this will help focus the discussion, yield greater clarity on the issues involved, and deliver more fruitful results for all. The Campus Concepts Syllabus lays out the topics to be discussed each week. As the weeks progress, there will be less and less time allotted to hearing from the renovation team, and more and more time devoted to open discussion.

To most effectively address your questions, concerns, and ideas, we would like you to write them down. We have slips of paper that you can write on, and you can turn them in to a member of the renovation team at any time. Every bit of input is considered by the renovation committee.
Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Why spend so much money on buildings?
2. What if we get more people? Will they fit?
3. Isn’t it wasteful to tear down a building?
4. What about street noise?
5. What about maintenance costs?
6. What about outdoor events?
   - Potlucks
   - Snow Day/Christmas On Purpose
   - VBS
   - Weddings, Funerals
7. Chairs in the sanctuary?!?!
8. Where will the library be?
9. Is there enough room for all the fellowship groups?
10. Can we help with the construction like we used to?
11. When can this be completed? How long will this take?
12. What will we do while things are under construction?
13. How will the decision process for the final design be handled? Who decides the final plan?
14. What about North Lot?

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