

## MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 2.0

By George Alexander

When Dan asked me to join the capital campaign, I have to admit I was a little apprehensive. I couldn't see how a former parsonage could become professional office space. I have met with Dan several times in his office. However, it never felt like an office, but rather reminded me of the bedroom I grew up in, only with a desk. When taking pictures for the presentations, I really noticed the deferred maintenance that Joe had talked about. There are scars on the floors where walls have been either moved or removed. The continuity of the reception area and the workspace seems really makeshift.

As I continued talking with Dan I started envisioning someone walking into the office for the first time. I could probably count on my fingers the number of times I've been in the church office. With the perspective of a first time visitor, I noticed those items I just pointed out. Is this how I want God's church to look to a visitor?

Walking through the office with the contractor, I started seeing the office in a different light. A larger, more inviting reception area could be achieved by removing the unused fireplace and closet. And walling off a work area and providing a working height surface would provide a great place for various projects. But, the one interior item that got me most excited was fixing the flooring. It is what ties the whole interior together, and getting rid of the scars would make it appear more professional. I started to imagine a new family looking for a church to call home sitting in the reception area alongside someone needing counsel.

Where I still had problems with the vision was the exterior. How can a house be transformed into a professional looking office? I recall talking in the parking lot and just not getting it. Thankfully the contractor and drafts person could! The light bulb was turned on the first time I saw the new façade. Wow! It looked like a doctor's office... professional and modern. Can you now picture that same family (now) driving up and parking in the lot? Curbs, sidewalk, and landscaping in front of a professional looking office inviting them to our new church office? I can! That gets me excited to see this project get started.

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