

### **Why is our current church too small? What size do we need?**

As most parishioners have noted, our current church is too small. On most Sundays, all seating is occupied. We have additional people standing in the aisles and in the narthex, as well as numerous adults and children in the basement during the service. During major feasts and other well-attended services, we have people spilling out of the building onto the stairs. Current and prospective families may be reluctant to attend services if they know that there is not enough space to accommodate attendees. We are the Body of Christ, and we must be accommodating and welcoming to all.

We currently have over 90 families as stewards. We have 667 square feet of seating space in the church. This square footage is enough to seat 56 people comfortably, using the standard 12 square feet of personal space per person. If 60% of our families (54) attend services and each family averages two people per family, we would need 1296 square feet of seating space to accommodate all attendees. It is commonly held that once 80% of a church's capacity is reached, a church's capability to expand the number of parishioners decreases and people even begin to leave. We passed the 80% threshold long ago. We need a facility that is at least 10,000 square feet to accommodate a growing parish of our size (seating for 200 people).

Lastly, we are called, as Orthodox Christians, to introduce and spread our faith to others. It is very difficult to ask members of our community that aren't Orthodox Christians to join us if there is not enough room to seat them comfortably.

### **Do we need a larger church hall as well?**

Unfortunately, our 604 square foot hall can accommodate only a fraction of Sunday parishioners. The space is too small for more than 50 parishioners to gather, not to mention the numerous children who have no place to play. Fellowship is an important part of keeping our community together, and we should prioritize creating opportunities for all to gather. Additionally, a larger church hall would accommodate receptions after weddings and baptisms, as well as be available to rent to the community.

### **Is our current parking lot adequate? Why can't people park on the street?**

With over 90 families, the parking is inadequate. We do have some parking available on the street, but our church is in a residential area where there is not an abundance of close parking. Furthermore, expecting our parishioners to struggle with finding parking either in our lot or on the street does not create an atmosphere of welcoming fellowship.

### **How much will an existing building cost? How much would it cost to buy land and build the exact church that we want?**

Based on the study conducted by Jerry Minetos, we can realistically spend \$750,000-1,000,000 on a new church. This budget is adequate to buy an existing facility. To build a church, we would need an estimated \$3-4 million. The clear way forward is to purchase an existing facility and convert it to meet our needs.

### **How much money do we currently have?**

Our building fund currently holds \$209,000 in cash, out of \$250,400 pledged. A conservative estimate has valued our current property at \$300,000, which brings our potential available funds to \$550,000. Our fundraising efforts will continue in order to raise the additional funds needed to buy a new building. Ideally, we would be able to buy a new property without taking out a mortgage.

**If we cannot support our current budget with stewardship alone, how will we handle the costs associated with a new church?**

Our goal is to buy a facility with cash, which will keep the change in expenses minimal. Should we find an adequate building before the pledges are fully realized, we will take out a mortgage. Our community should keep in mind that we are *offering from our abundance for the Glory of God*. We must have faith that our parish can meet this challenge, and we must take action to prove that our faith is real. Furthermore, Jerry Minetos developed a goal that our parish can realistically reach. With God, we will accomplish this most important effort.

**If we buy a church with a mortgage before a pledge is completed, would we use the remaining pledge money to pay off the mortgage?**

The Parish Council would recommend how to spend remaining pledge dollars and take to the General Assembly for a vote. The donations would either pay off the mortgage or finance renovations. Our Capital Campaign will limit any future loan amount, so any mortgage we secure will not be an unreasonable burden on our church community.

**When renovating an existing building, will we hire a contractor or will we complete the work with volunteers? How would we pay for a contractor?**

We will accomplish as much work as possible with volunteers. Volunteers have been, and always will be, critical to the growth and maintenance of our parish. In our current church, parishioners completed all of the necessary work to convert our existing building to an Orthodox church. We have no doubt that our community will step up and renovate any building it chooses. If a contractor is needed for more technical work, the Parish Council will recommend the source and amount of funds needed and take to the General Assembly for a vote if the amount is over the Parish Council's spending authority.

**Will a new church affect the Greek Festival either positively or negatively?**

While the Colorado Springs community has grown accustomed to our location for the Greek Festival, an expanded location can only help grow our festival. Each year, the festival draws more and more people. Last year was our best year in terms of profit. We had times during the normal lunch and dinner hours that were so busy that seating was unavailable. An increased area for the festival can only help draw more crowds.

**What other amenities are we looking for beyond square footage for the church?**

We are looking for a reasonably sized church hall with a kitchen. We are also looking for adequate space for offices, classrooms, and a playground. Having more space will allow the entire church community to gather for coffee hour and picnics, as well as allow parishioners to hold receptions for their events. A larger hall will provide space for our dance group to practice. Classrooms will give space to our children to learn the faith and to participate in activities like GOYA. A playground will provide an opportunity for children to release their energy, keeping disruptions of the services to a minimum. In addition, we would like to find a location that is handicapped accessible or can easily be converted to such a facility.