

## NEW-CHURCH PLAN? HOW'S IT GOING? WHAT'S NEXT?

It's way past time for an update on our plans for building a new church. We've been waiting (not so) patiently for the contract for the property on Crawford Road to be completed. As a reminder, you may recall that our Building Committee found a great location for us, and the Fort Worth Diocese agreed to purchase the land for us (of course, later on it becomes St. Mark's financial responsibility). Embedded within those 30 acres on Crawford Road, is a plot of land that had been earmarked for an elementary school in the Denton Independent School District (DISD). The seller and the DISD have agreed to swap that property for another property that is a better location for a school. So, the way appears clear now to complete the contract – that process is underway; Diocesan officials, our realtor/broker, and the seller are (we are told) close to finalizing that contract.

As you might expect, securing the property has been the “long pole in the tent,” – everything else we have to do to pursue our dream of a beautiful new church, is contingent on having a suitable place to build it! Following is a rough outline for the few steps we've already taken, and the many steps that lie ahead for us. We will have a better idea of *when* all this happens when our new pastor comes on board.

### 1. STAGE I: PLANNING

- a. At the direction of the Fort Worth Diocese, about four years ago we hired a liturgical consultant. His role is to help us through the programming and liturgical design process, and to prepare a master plan for our property and a schematic design (a series of drawings and architectural renderings). He has completed the programming and liturgical design.
- b. We now need a master plan from the Liturgical Consultant based on the Crawford Road property; the parish decides the priority of construction.
- c. Liturgical Consultant evaluates the property, master plan, and at this point will help us with a preliminary cost estimate.

### 2. STAGE II: FINANCING

- a. Diocesan Development Office assists in designing a fund-raising plan.
- b. Diocesan Pastoral Finance Council (DPFC) approves fund-raising plan.
- c. Hire fund-raising consultants.
- d. Report to the Fort Worth Diocese on results of fund raising.
- e. Fort Worth Diocese approves final budget.

### 3. STAGE III: CONSTRUCTION

- a. Hire an architect for the final stages of design and construction.
- b. The Diocesan Building Commission (DBC) reviews/approves plans at every stage of planning leading to construction.
- c. Construction Bid process. Approved list of contractors invited to bid.
- d. Construction Contract prepared by Diocesan Construction Office, signed by Bishop Vann and Pastor.
- e. Loan. When the building(s) is accepted, the total amount borrowed is tabulated; loan documents are signed.

Please pray with us as we continue our journey to a new church - "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain." - Psalm 127:1