

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

Building Project Status—Frequently Asked Questions

On Thursday night, October 30, Msgr. Joseph, David Utsler, Parish Council and Building Committee leaders informed the community in an announced meeting that the new church building is being redesigned. The Diocese has asked we reconsider our construction plans to enable a less expensive and simpler church design. The following Frequently Asked Questions provide more information.

1. Why the redesign now?

ANSWER: The Diocese recently expressed their concern over the complexity, estimated project cost, as well as out-year maintenance costs. Accordingly, the parish has been given new financial limitations that, in the face of the challenging national economic conditions, require a less expensive and simpler design. We anticipate saving several millions of dollars with a redesign—the specifics will be determined once a design is priced. The potential savings are all the more significant in our difficult economy.

2. Didn't the parish have Diocesan approval on our plans?

ANSWER: The Diocese had approved only the 25 percent construction document drawings. We were on track to submit 75 percent drawings in July—Father Timothy resigned in June and the project was paused immediately pending the appointment of a new pastor per Canon Law.

3. Will our new church still seat 1500 persons?

ANSWER: That is the current plan—we see no reason for that changing. Plans going forward call for a design evoking the noble simplicity called for by Vatican II and expressed in the spirituality of St. Francis, the same vision of faith expressed in the previous design. All involved will work hard to adhere to parishioner wishes that “we build a church that looks like a church.”

4. How will the new design be determined?

ANSWER: Via collaboration with the Diocese, our pastor, the architect, and the Building Committee.

5. How will the new Holy Cross church to be built at Lebanon and Teel affect our church project?

Answer: Although in the City of Frisco, Holy Cross is in the Diocese of Ft. Worth and their associated project plans have nothing to do with the plan to build a church at St. Francis of Assisi.

6. What is the status of the Capital Campaign?

ANSWER: The status has not changed for sometime--pledge totals to the campaign remain at \$14.5 million, leaving us \$500,000 short of the \$15 million campaign goal. Donations continue to the campaign continue and have helped us received \$7,457,721 million in cash, with expenditures so far of \$5,284,787 million. \$2,172,934 in cash is in a savings account and CDs with several area banks. We anticipate renewed attention to the Capital Campaign will occur in conjunction with presenting the new design. In the meantime, we thank everyone who has continued donating to the Capital Campaign during this difficult time for our community.

7. Has a timeline/schedule and budget been established for the construction project?

ANSWER: No. Many actions remain such as bringing the new pastor up to speed on the project as well as determining the design. Once the design has determined and approved by the Diocese, phased drawings and pricing must be accomplished and will then allow for building a schedule. Similarly, a draft project budget will be established and submitted for approval once all design pricing and project costs have been determined.

We thank for your continued patience as our new pastor and parish leaders work through these project challenges. If you have questions, please call the Development Office at 972-712-2645, Ext 351.

October, 30, 2008