

# Facility Team Meeting Notes

---

March 19, 2009

Attendance: Pastor Evelyn Dahlke, Tom Fischer, Steve Hinderaker, Sally Palm, Pastor Craig Pederson, Peter Radford, Virginia Schnabel, Jennifer Schultz, Cathie Witzel, and David Raymond, facilitator. Susan Mattson was unable to attend.

1. Devotions were from Matthew 7:24 with opening prayer by Pastor Evelyn.
2. Discussion about how the Facility Team work aligns with NEC's mission and vision. We want to keep the vision of NEC foremost in our deliberations.
3. Dave reported on Craig's contact with a home school group and on a visit Craig and Dave made to Minnesota Transitions Charter Schools ([www.mtcs.org](http://www.mtcs.org)) on Monday, March 16. MTCS is interested in moving Banaadir Academy, a K-8 school for students from East Africa, to Holland and would be very interested in partnering with NEC. Charter schools cannot own or control buildings, but they can enter into a long-term lease that can support a mortgage. MTCS is about 8 years old and it operates 10 charter schools in several locations, including St. Albert's Church.
4. Next was a general discussion about the options and about conversations with NEC members. There was little interest in exploring the shared building concept further at this time, in part because there don't appear to be interested partner churches. Lowry is appealing, but the cost of land acquisition and new construction is high. Pastor Evelyn said that some members may suggest a piecemeal approach to the 13<sup>th</sup> site: doing what we can afford now and hoping that we can do the rest later. After discussion the team reached a consensus that this approach would leave the congregation with a facility that would not enhance our mission and a building with on-going problems, and it is not likely that we could raise the money to complete the work later. Craig introduced a potential 5<sup>th</sup> option: partner with NECDC to build a new building with their proposed housing project on 19<sup>th</sup> and Jackson.

The discussion centered on Holland. Dave presented preliminary figures that showed how the purchase price and remodeling might be supported by a charter school lease. MTCS would prefer to have the building owned by a non-profit corporation that includes board members from NEC and from the community, especially including some board members with experience in operating a facility. Evelyn reported on some conversations she had with older members who expressed openness to different possibilities, especially if the possibility is a church with everything on one level. Sally asked her bus passengers about the facility and reported that they are mellow about the possibilities. Virginia told about a conversation with someone who said that the worship and sermons and what happens after the sermon are far more important than what the facility is.

5. The team decided to keep all 5 options on the table at this point but to focus on more fact-finding about the Holland option. The team will take a tour of a charter school, the Center for Changing Lives, and Lionsgate Academy (<http://www.lionsgateacademy.org/>) a charter school that leases from Cornerstone Church in Crystal (<http://www.cornerstonecrystal.org/>) which is in a former school building. The team will also try to arrange a time when church members can tour Holland.

6. Jennifer will arrange a meeting with current tenants and partners, to update them on the team's work and get their feedback.
7. Sally, Peter, Virginia and Cathie will report to the council on March 24. The report will include a description of the options and our best estimates of costs.
8. Timetable:
  - March 24 – report to council
  - Thursday April 2 – 6:30, next team meeting at 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - April 5 – congregation information meeting with discussion after worship
  - Mid-May – recommendation to the council
  - May 31 – congregation information meeting, possibly with vote
  - To be announced: tours
9. Dave will draft the council report and a report to NorthMarq, the school district realtor.
10. The meeting closed with reflections and a prayer by Pastor Craig