

Thank you for your interest in the Build A Better Burke Project! Below, you can find the history of the project, along with information about the previous phases of the project up to this point. If you have any questions, please reach out to our building committee using the form on our website.

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History:

Burke UMC participated in a process called NLI (Next Level Innovations) from June of 2017 through the end of 2018. As a quick recap, the Church was invited into a visioning process designed by the Alexandria District called NLI. The District NLI Team spent a good bit of time learning about our church and how God has blessed our congregation. A large portion of our congregation participated in our NLI Weekend where there was listening and brainstorming. The goal was to find ways we could move forward with innovations in our ministry. Through the process, the District NLI team identified strengths and concerns, which resulted in a set of 5 innovation recommendations that we as a church agreed to fully execute back in 2018. The fourth innovation on that list was 'Making Space for God's Work,' and the first action was to establish a 'Facilities Utilization Team' to ensure our facility had the capacity and was able to align with the Church's clarified vision statement.

The Facilities Utilization Team was formed and completed a comprehensive assessment of the facility to determine mission-critical needs as it applied to our ministries to, and with, the greater Burke Community. The team surveyed and interviewed staff and leaders in our core ministry areas to identify their specific needs and how the building can be best utilized to meet those identified needs.

The team identified multiple aspects of our church that could be updated or changed to allow us to continue to grow and move forward with our ministries and missions. Their guiding principles and considerations included:

- Ensure there is adequate storage space.

- NLI process naming some need to upgrade the kitchen area.
- Ensure ADA compliance, security and environmental impacts as priorities in renovations.
- Attempt to keep the current footprint
- Recognize the needs of multiple constituencies with a large demographic in their 50's and 60's in our area and 1/4th of the area is younger families.

The specific needs identified included:

- Need for larger spaces that allow community building for younger families and make the building a bit more multi-functional for larger groups.
- Desire for dedicated space for children and outreach, with multi-use space for adults and larger gatherings.
- The main area (top floor) should be designed to prioritize and be a welcome space for community members during the week.
- Make upgrades to the kitchen to be able to expand food and church ministries
- Re-Locate the Co-op, with the goal to create a welcoming space for all community members.
- Ensure adequate storage space, ADA compliance, and security and environmental impact

From this point, in 2021, the Building Renovation Committee was formed, and was tasked to lead and guide a process to seek an architect who could help us reimagine our church space to meet the needs as identified by the Building Utilization Team.

We contracted ZHA Architects for the next phase of the renovation process. ZHA worked closely with the Building Renovation Committee to learn more about our ministry objectives and space requirements to determine the feasibility of changes proposed by the Facilities Utilization Study Team. ZHA created various conceptual floor plans to test fit the church's vision. The Building Committee came to some initial recommendations after much consideration of multiple possibilities.

In summer of 2022, the Committee held three town hall meetings to share the current recommendations with the congregation. In Fall of 2022, the Committee met with the District Building Committee per the recommendation of the District Superintendent and ascertained whether they could move forward on parts of the project, knowing that the bigger renovations that may need approval by the District would be at a later time. The Building Committee gave input and the District Building Committee advised that we could move forward on proposed projects.

Throughout Fall and Winter, the committee using the feedback collected from the congregational town halls to solidify the plan, discern the best phasing and timeline for the work, and gathered cost estimates for the phases from the architect. On March 9th, 2023, the Building Committee presented at a church conference the phases for approval that this is the right direction and looked for approval of the entirety of phase 1 with cost estimates. The body decided to move forward with a portion of phase 1 (which we call phase 1A) which included raising \$100,000 for this first phase of renovation work.

## **Identifying Needs:**

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## **Phase 1A Fundraising Updates:**

Because of your generous donations, we were able to surpass our goal of raising \$100,000 for phase 1A of our Building A Better Burke initiative. Our current fundraising total is \$113,296. Any additional funds will go towards future phases of our renovation efforts. Thanks for your commitment to this important project!

## **Phase 1A Renovations Completion:**

Update from The Building Committee: *April 27, 2024*

We are pleased to share that Phase 1A of our Building A Better Burke renovation project is complete! Thanks to all the volunteers who came out for our two work days and for the tireless efforts of Tom Muldoon & Mike Holmes, who have been our project managers, and the help from a handful of regular volunteers throughout the summer (Walter Rieder, Ping Wang, Charlie Wagner, Bruce Tiso, Gerry Staudte, Mike Sawin, Julie Chapman).

What's Next:

On May 9th, The Building Renovation Committee presented at a Church Conference their recommendations for the next Phase of the renovations, which included:

1. Complete renovations of the Outreach Area (as part of Phase 1B)
2. Develop a plan for renovating the kitchen, which would take place as part of Phase 3 of the renovation project. This would also include planning to add flooring and soundproofing to the Fellowship Hall
3. Shift the original plans to create a larger office in the main office area (Currently in Phase 2) to a later phase as we assess the general need.

These recommendations were approved by a majority vote, and beginning Summer 2024, the Building Renovation Committee will move forward with the outlined projects, starting with the completion of renovations to the Outreach Area.

[April 2024 Leadership Board Presentation](#) – What Comes Next??

## **Phase 1b and Beyond:**

As we looked ahead to Phase 1B and Beyond, we will come back to the congregation after the completion of 1A to talk about a process for moving forward on the rest of the phases. Phase 1B and Phase 2 will most likely be combined into the next phase and we will come to the congregation with cost and timing for this phase. To determine the cost of the last three phases, we will need to pay professionals in order to get a cost estimate, so when we bring phase 1B and 2 before the congregation, we will be asking to approve the direction of the last three phases so we can allocate funds toward getting this information. These recommendations were approved.

## **Phase 1b and 2:**

In April of 2024, the Building Committee presented [this presentation](#) to a Charge Conference plans for Phase 1B. Upon approval, the work began in Summer 2024.

In Summer of 2024, we began the work of renovation of the downstairs Outreach area. This consisted of:

- Pulling out the Divider and creating a wall in the co-op area to make sure we were congruent with County codes.
- Painted and prepared the Outreach Room.

- We removed the bridge and created a cement walkway with a pad for pallets
- We opened up the closet area outside the co-op for more room for check-in and space for co-op shopping.
- We replaced the generator to be able to support the co-op.

We were fortunate to be able to accomplish this work from funds that were leftover from our special gifts campaign for Phase 1A and a generous grant from the Church of Latter Day Saints to cover the cost of our generator. We are thankful for our relationship with the LDS church and their support of our co-op.

Phase 2 initially had a plan to create a larger room in the office area. As we lived into Phase 1A, we realized having a room that could have a class of 12 or less would be sufficient, so we adjusted the plan by moving the Senior Pastors office and made that space into a classroom. We plan to move the Associate's office and make that larger office a sitting area for meeting with a handful of people.