

DCC

Disciples Christian Church occupies a common position among congregations today, maintaining an outsized and aging building that no longer meets the needs of those it is to serve. Our project is born of the opportunity for the church to enter into a mutually beneficial partnership. In exchange for townhouse development rights, the partner will finance a move from a 27,000 SF structure built in 1956 to an updated 10,000 SF structure customized to current needs and the church's progressive inclusive spiritual mission.

CORE PRINCIPLES

Break with preconceptions of what this church [and its congregation] must be

Establish a dignified sanctuary which invokes the sacred in universal ways

Use light and connections between activities to shape the experience of the new structure

Encourage use by a broader audience during off-hours without compromising core use

Begin with sustainable underpinnings of flexibility and cross-programming, no throw away space, minimize corridors, all spaces support one another

Allow nature and light to shape the structure as much as program and use, all components must be reciprocal and mutually reinforcing

PROGRAMMING

Space needs include the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall and kitchen, educational classrooms, offices, and a hunger center. A Courtyard, Terrace, and Memorial Garden anchor and link sacred spaces; connecting everyday experience of users to nature, worship, communion, and education. The spatial 'relief' provided by the gardens permits a densely packed program to

eliminate corridors and increase utility; essential to a prudent reduction in area. In distributing classrooms throughout the facility, rather than having a common classroom 'wing', we allow each space to adapt depending on the ceremony, day, and need. A small classroom is also a nursery, music room, crying room and space for private reflection. Another is also the robing room for baptisms, vestry, bride's quarters, and conference room. Youth and Children's Classrooms serve as sanctuary, dining overflow, and Hunger Center expansion during holidays and high season.

MASSING

The structure is to be both expressive and formed around intimate experiences. The new church will anchor the corner of Mayfield Road, 7 lanes wide and characterized by big box retail and larger institutional structures. The form of the sanctuary emerges, from the village-like assembly of programmatic volumes below. Iconography from the existing church is reused in ways that are both new and historically significant.

SUSTAINABILITY + MATERIALITY

The long-term sustainability of the project is vital to its success, integrating material, economics, and character. A viable future for the church structure will be determined by the longevity and maintainability of the materials chosen. A combination of tested and new materials with long-life-cycle horizons are deployed in sometimes unconventional ways. The form, protected openings, continuous volumes, allows the use of products that interact dramatically with the environment, light, reflection; changing in time and acquiring patina, while resisting degradation.