

**Benson Memorial
United Methodist Church
Congregational Questionnaire
September 2009**

The following are the results of the congregational questionnaire conducted between August 16, 2009 and August 31, 2009. The survey used the online website SurveyMonkey.com to collect most of the responses online. Hard copies were also collected for those that wished to do so. In total 100 responses were received: 83 were filled out online and 17 were collected as hard copies.

The open responses to questions were only corrected for spelling. Individual responses to questions are identified by a leading bullet may have had more than one paragraph.

Question 1

What activities in a multi-purpose building do you believe Benson Memorial needs to offer to serve our Lord?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Meals	97.0%	96
Classes	88.9%	88
Family Fellowship Activities	88.9%	88
WIHN	83.8%	83
Senior Adult Activities	72.7%	72
Youth Center	67.7%	67
Worship Services	59.6%	59
Basketball	55.6%	55
After School Activities	53.5%	53
Praise Band Practice	51.5%	51
Volleyball	42.4%	42
Preschool	41.4%	41
Meals on Wheels	37.4%	37
Other (please specify)		16
answered question		99
skipped question		1

Other responses:

- Library - I can't believe you left this important item out of the list.
- Storage space for campus tools including lawn equipment, hand tools, etc.
- Any and all areas which can be supported by our church where there is currently interest in serving but where we lack the facility to do so.
- Wedding reception facility
- Emergency Shelter with kitchen facilities, beds, and showers.
- Children's Ministry activities
- Fellowship hall, place for wedding receptions
- I hope that there will be space for a choir room on the same level as the sanctuary (for those who have trouble negotiating stairs) with enough space for more chairs (larger choir), plus music file cabinets, robes, a music folders cabinet, storage, and perhaps, locked office space. This room should be acoustically satisfying and protected from outside sounds.
- If this has not been done already, I suggest contacting the Wake County Dept of Human Services to determine needs for our area. Is there enough after school already? What about resources for seniors? Other pressing needs?
- Scout activities
- The worship service could be a contemporary worship service not offered anywhere else or other different types of services.
- There are truly an unlimited amount of things that can happen in a multi purpose room
- Wedding Receptions

- Instructional (e.g. CPR training)
- Alternative Worship Service
- Community Service Classes & Activities

Question 2

Please rate in terms of importance and urgency the activities to be held in a multi-purpose building. (1 being low need, 5 being high need)

Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	Rating Average	Response Count
Meals	3	1	8	18	61	4.46	91
Family Fellowship Activities	3	0	10	19	60	4.45	92
WIHN	3	3	10	19	54	4.33	89
Classes	4	7	13	24	46	4.07	94
Youth Center	7	5	22	28	25	3.68	87
Senior Adult Activities	5	6	25	29	23	3.67	88
After School Activities	6	15	19	27	16	3.39	83
Meals on Wheels	9	14	28	14	16	3.17	81
Preschool	21	11	13	23	14	2.98	82
Worship Services	17	12	30	18	11	2.93	88
Praise Band Practice	12	19	27	22	6	2.90	86
Basketball	21	17	22	16	8	2.68	84
Volleyball	25	12	24	14	6	2.56	81
<i>answered question</i>							97
<i>skipped question</i>							3

Question 3

What amenities should a multi-purpose building have?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Kitchen	97.0%	96
Showers	84.8%	84
Accessible Restroom	83.8%	83
More Classrooms	81.8%	81
Audio/Visual System	72.7%	72
Stage	69.7%	69
Food Pantry Storage	65.7%	65
Gymnasium	63.6%	63
Additional Parking	63.6%	63
Storage for ?	59.6%	59
Covered drop-off	55.6%	55
Clothing Donation Storage	46.5%	46
Library	45.5%	45
Parlor for Bereaved Families	44.4%	44
Larger Conference Room	41.4%	41
Larger Classrooms	38.4%	38
Tree Preservation	37.4%	37
Music Rooms	35.4%	35
Choir Room	35.4%	35
Staff Offices	35.4%	35
Playground	30.3%	30
Other (please specify)	8.1%	8
answered question		99
skipped question		1

Other responses:

- Every "Town Hall " meeting held several years ago elicited the response that a larger, functional library was needed. The present location is not adequate and resembles a storage closet.
- Facility for wedding reception that could help generate income
- A system of lockers for organizations, like the Prayer Shawl Ministry to store items between meetings.
- Sleeping area for WHIN and for disaster victims
- fellowship hall, place for wedding receptions
- More classrooms can include larger classrooms which be partitioned and could also include a larger conference room. Large trees are a dance, but it would be nice to leave some of the smaller trees, if possible and/or plant some decorative trees. If our present choir rooms are not adequate, then I would include rooms which could be used for either. Provisions for recreation for the youth should be included in the plans.
- Infant Nursery
- Elevator

Question 4

Please rate the following in terms of importance and urgency to have in new building.
(1 being low need, 5 being high need)

Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	Rating Average	Response Count
Kitchen	3	1	4	17	73	4.59	98
Accessible Restrooms	2	1	7	19	61	4.51	90
More Classrooms	3	2	16	23	48	4.21	92
Audio/Visual System	3	4	14	27	42	4.12	90
Showers	7	7	4	29	45	4.07	92
Additional Parking	4	8	14	21	40	3.98	87
Storage	4	8	13	26	34	3.92	85
Larger Classrooms	7	14	14	18	27	3.55	80
Stage	10	9	18	25	26	3.55	88
Covered Drop-off	7	14	18	21	24	3.49	84
Food Pantry Storage	12	10	18	24	22	3.40	86
Parlor for Bereaved Families	11	12	18	20	20	3.32	81
Gymnasium	20	9	13	19	27	3.27	88
Tree Preservation	18	9	17	15	19	3.10	78
Larger Conference Room	16	12	22	17	15	3.04	82
Clothing Donation Storage	18	11	18	24	13	3.04	84
Choir Room	23	9	20	17	13	2.85	82
Library	22	13	22	15	14	2.84	86
Playground	19	13	19	14	11	2.80	76
Staff Offices	19	18	21	15	12	2.80	85
Music Rooms	18	15	18	19	8	2.79	78
Other (please specify)							9
<i>answered question</i>							98
<i>skipped question</i>							2

Other responses:

- Sleeping area for WIHN and disaster victims (5)
- Capacity to hold 800-1000 people.
- fellowship hall, place for wedding receptions
- Please note that the more storage space you have, the more junk you will collect. There are many places to donate clothes in Raleigh. Additional limited storage is needed for some areas, but in my experience people tend to accumulate "junk" if there is too much storage available.
- We should develop a long term campus master plan for several phases of construction.
- Infant Nursery
- Parlor needs to be near to Sanctuary.
- Elevator
- I think a lot depends on Plan. Offices need to be accessible to whole campus. Preschool should be separate as possible and in one building.

Question 5

How much seating should the building have for meals?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
100	1.0%	1
200	14.3%	14
300	37.8%	37
400	46.9%	46
answered question		98
skipped question		2

Question 6

How many should the building be able to seat for non-meal fellowship activities?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
100	2.0%	2
200	4.1%	4
300	14.3%	14
400	29.6%	29
500	31.6%	31
600	18.4%	18
answered question		98
skipped question		2

Question 7

Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you would like to make to the building committee.

Answer Options	Response Count
	29
answered question	29
skipped question	71

- It should be large enough for the entire congregation to gather for a meal or event and be comfortable with round tables and space for children to be able to move around and play while parents fellowship
- Please keep the bldg affordable. One option would be to shell in space for future growth and design the facility to be expanded, anticipating where the bldg would expand and for what purposes.

Please leave out the gym and other large recreational space. We are not a YMCA/YWCA. We can't be all things to all people. We need to stay focused on our mission - making disciples.

I would support the bldg financially if it is not overdone, as noted above.

- LOTS of space and facilities (kitchen set-up) to handle a church-wide dinner or covered-dish event for ALL church members and their families.
- What is the current seating capacity for meals in the fellowship hall? Where is the site for the new building? How will the old buildings be repurposed?
- If the room is large enough to accommodate perhaps the building can be used for wedding receptions as well.

Non church/community activities can generate money which could be used to help fund the building.

- Conduct a feasibility study regarding purchase of the old Circuit City bldg. Convert the bldg. to include a kitchen, showers/facilities to support WIHN. Include classrooms/conference rooms. Purchasing and converting an existing bldg. might be more cost-effective and allow for a faster approach to meeting needs.
- I think we should consider building the new facility where the fellowship hall is now standing and try to make it work by using the Embassy Suites or possibly a couple of trailers temporarily. I believe the prime spot for a new facility is where the fellowship hall is now.
- We should plan for the future, not the present.

Preschool should not be the priority or focus of the building, as construction of classes with restrooms would be more expensive. The upstairs of the admin building could be used by preschool if additional classrooms for are added in the new building. When the admin building was constructed, the lower level was built for preschool specifications.

To attract younger members, there needs to be a gym area to provide recreational activities.

- I would like to see the old fellowship hall replaced.
- I definitely think the new building should replace the old fellowship hall, courtyard, and old classrooms. If the new facility were built apart from the current buildings, it would have a different "feel" to it than if it was an integral part of the current facility. Also, if it was built away from current structures, the older parts would still be a drawback, and a poor impression to new people visiting. A separate building might also pose a greater security risk for break-ins. As much of the natural area would also be preserved.
- This building should be designed as a complete multi-purpose building that serves the community (beyond current mission work) as well as church members.
- Do not fill in the ravine. Connect the new building to the existing with an enclosed bridge with glass walls. Retain natural beauty of the wooded area.

Provide more storage areas than presently needed.

Emphasize energy efficiency

Emphasize function rather than architectural form. (Keep it simple)

- I think these numbers for capacity are way too low. If you want a building that can only seat a few hundred people, then don't even bother building anything new!!
- Build with idea of growth, so that late we do not meet so we have to rebuild.
- If the cost of site preparation on the hill is prohibitive, I would consider demolishing the present fellowship hall first and rebuilding the new facility on that site. Renting trailers during construction could help provide meeting rooms during the interim.
- I feel that the current "old" building, the current fellowship hall bldg., should be torn down to make room for the new building or for additional parking. More, easily-accessible parking spaces is an acute need (many people are not going to park at the Embassy Suites location and walk over)!

I suggest extending the current "new administrative/classroom building" into the current parking lot

(towards the scout hut), extend/build a new bldg. then back towards the current pre-school playground, then demolish the current fellowship hall bldg. (the "old" building) for parking.

Also, with the current economy, plus the minister change (which, like it or not, always causes us to lose members at first, without simultaneously gaining new members to offset the financial upset), I feel we need to be very conservative with the building and the \$\$\$ amounts needed. Please notice (as seen each week in the bulletin) that we are not currently meeting our annual financial budget needs. I am a faith-believing person, but \$\$\$ "speaks" reality, also.

- I do not think our church should provide space for sports (basket ball, volley ball, tennis, etc) , parents, schools , city, state, should assume that obligation and responsibility and liability.

It would be much more cost effective to pay motel room rent for WITN families instead of building facilities assuming liability, and responsibility for them at our church campus.

- Tear down the current fellowship hall and adjacent classrooms. Waste of money to maintain and update it. MUCH better location for a multi-purpose building regardless of inconvenience while being built.

Less money to put new facility at old FLAT location.

Really disappointed that it appears fellowship hall will be retained.

- Please keep up the fabulous work!
- The kitchen does not need to be huge. For large groups, catering could be used.
- I think that the site of the present fellowship hall should be considered as a possible site for the new building. The temporary disruption to Benson's activities would be minimal and could be dealt with - trailers for preschool, having Sunday School classes in the sanctuary or perhaps at Embassy Suites, etc. If the new building were located where the fellowship hall now stands, it would be much more convenient and accessible for the activities we want to hold there. Also, when the new building is completed, everyone will want to be located there - no one will want to be in the old fellowship hall building. Rather than building a new building and worrying in a few years about what to do with the current fellowship hall, we should address that issue now. It just makes good economic sense.
- I would like a playground for older kids, ages 6 and up.
- Meal seating should be determined by further study. 500 or 600 is not unreasonable.
- Thanks for your dedication.
- The stage could be a portable platform style, similar to Asbury's.
- Storage - Please remember that providing more storage means people will leave more clutter. It will fill up quickly if allowed.

We have no dedicated space with cribs or swings, etc. in our church. Very hard to get young families to come here.

If all rooms taken up by preschool classes, there will be no room for other classes/activities. Better to have space than can be packed up between events.

Please contact Wake County Social Services. Does this area need more after-school or senior activities? I suggest finding out the true need rather than copying other churches. Many after school programs in our area are not full. I do not know about senior needs.

- Parlor for bereaved families and wedding party should be in closest building to sanctuary with a bathroom.

Evaluate how existing space can be used.

Will a director need to be hired to be in charge of activities in this building.

- All of the items you listed above should be a part of the church campus as a whole. The new building does not need to hold all of them. I would expect some of the rooms in the current buildings to be shifted and used differently. For example, it would be nice if all the preschool classrooms were in the Admin building. In order to do that the church offices would need to move to the new building. If the youth center moves to the new building, then maybe the current youth center can be used for music/choir room.
- All of the spaces, new and old need to be looked at for versatility. Can a library function as a conference room and/or a bereavement room. All preschool classrooms should have storage nearby for adult chairs so the rooms can be used for adult or child Sunday School classes.
- WIHN is a mission Benson is committed to. We need to do it better. The new building should help provide more comfortable and private accommodations for our guests and activities for the children.
- I suggest we maximize current space according to ministries. For example, Music all on the lower level of church; Preschool separate dedicated space; perhaps current Fellowship Hall; Administrative offices expanded and spread over 2nd Floor of Admin. Building. Youth etc. in new building.

I do think we need to add a 2nd store to Fellowship Hall building.

Additionally several members asked to be contacted further for comments. The comments from these conversations are below:

- Please have it that music rooms are all on one level so that choir members do not have to up or down stairs.
- After a presentation to a Sunday School class, one member wanted to express input on that the fee for the fundraiser seemed low, and was glad we were planning on using a paid fundraiser.
- I hope that we will focus on the primary missions of the church. For example, if we identify the need for a gym in the community that is fine, but don't build one just to have it.
- Regarding Meals on Wheels, the type of kitchen needed for this activity is very different from other needs. Make sure there is this need early before designing.

The following four questions provide demographic information regarding the respondents to the questionnaire.

Question 8
Gender

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Male	41.4%	41
Female	58.6%	58
<i>answered question</i>		99
<i>skipped question</i>		1

Question 10
Travel distance from the Church (in miles)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 1	3.0%	3
2-5	55.0%	55
6-10	28.0%	28
11-15	8.0%	8
16-20	6.0%	6
21+	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		100
<i>skipped question</i>		0

Question 9
Age

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Under 10	2.0%	2
11-20	1.0%	1
21-30	1.0%	1
31-40	8.1%	8
41-50	11.1%	11
51-60	21.2%	21
61-70	32.3%	32
71-80	19.2%	19
81+	4.0%	4
<i>answered question</i>		99
<i>skipped question</i>		1

Question 11
Years associated with Benson Memorial UMC

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
0-1	2.0%	2
2-5	13.3%	13
6-10	14.3%	14
11-15	10.2%	10
16-20	11.2%	11
21-25	10.2%	10
26-30	13.3%	13
31-35	14.3%	14
36-40	2.0%	2
40+	9.2%	9
<i>answered question</i>		98
<i>skipped question</i>		2

Question 12

Are you willing to support the construction and use of a new multi-purpose building?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	100.0%	92
No	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		92
<i>skipped question</i>		8