**Philosophy and Background:**

* Last November at our congregational meeting, we revealed some very preliminary concepts for a building project to meet some pressing ministry needs. We showed one early idea for expansion and shared our very early thoughts about budget and cost.
* After that meeting, we seated two committees and began to dig deep into the design and financing aspects of this kind of project.
* Here are a few of the goals that were set for our committees:
	1. To meet the growing ministry needs of CEFC in a way that minimizes disruption to our current activities.
	2. To anticipate the future space and facility needs of the next generation.
	3. To build in such a way that we don't find ourselves undoing and redoing after each phase. That is, to build smart and efficiently.
	4. Although youth and worship ministries exhibit pressing needs, other ministries that provide supportive roles, such as: infant and child care, Sunday School, Adult education, and Vines and Branches, and administration are also busting at the seams and require space.
* The committees are leveraging the skills of our members, and also, when necessary, consulting with experts in church building and design, budgeting, financing, feasibility.  We have done that through hundreds of man hours and scores of meetings to arrive at what we think is a good basic concept for both building design and construction process flow.

 In short, after seeing God's confirmation over the past 5 years of our 10 year vision, we took steps to honor that confirmation by stepping forward in faith as God enables us to build His kingdom here on earth.

**Structure and Function:**

* I want to emphasize that everything we are showing you today constitutes our best ideas to date. They are all subject to modification, improvement and other considerations that we won't address until we have completed the feasibility study, and we are further down the road towards completing the plans.
* The basic footprint that we sent you a week ago or so gives you an idea of the location of what would be our new worship space at the east end of the church. That is the side that faces Brick Lane.
* We anticipate a worship space large enough for all of us to meet at one time with the opportunity to add balcony space in the future when necessity demands and budget permits.
* Since that ground slopes eastward we would have the opportunity (actually the need) to support the new worship area with a lower level. So the lower level wouldn’t feel like a basement, we would anticipate digging down a bit so we can have 10’-12’ ceilings and an area that would provide very flexible education, fellowship, and multi-use space
* Although we haven't designed it yet, we have at this point allocated space for a commercial kitchen and would plan (if budget allows) to plumb and wire for this during our initial building phase.
* An elevator would be provided for wheelchair accessibility to all levels, and for transferring movable equipment from one floor to the other.
* Here are some of the advantages of building this space where we are showing it and with the amenities that we would put into it:
	1. We could worship together on Sunday's and have room for everyone at special services like Christmas Eve and Thanksgiving Eve.
	2. We’d have the ability to add additional balcony space in the future making it possible to increase seating incrementally.
	3. This design would give us some flexibility of phasing the project efficiently.
	4. Building this way would mean not having to tear out and rebuild as we grow.
	5. The space we have preliminarily designed would serve many ministry needs, not just youth and worship, as some of our earlier concepts did.
	6. In the full scope of implementing and pursuing our vision, this approach would the most cost effective option we’ve considered to date, even though it will require that we spend more in the beginning.
	7. We would expect this approach to create minimal disruption to ongoing ministry during the construction of the building.
* Speaking of cost, we are estimating the total cost of this initial project at 4 to 4.5 million dollars.
	+ I know that is a big number.
	+ I know that if you are not familiar with building institutional type buildings, that can sound way out of whack. It's not. It is actually lower than one might expect.
	+ We are conducting this feasibility study to help us know how to phase this, how to finance it, and how to prioritize our options.
	+ Here is one way to put this number in context:
		1. With our current attendance of approximately 500 adults, if each adult found a way to contribute $20 per week, that would be $1000 per year per adult; with 500 adults, that would amount to half a million a year towards the building. With that simple approach, that means that we would pay this project off in less than 10 years. ( I am not asking you to do that...yet. I am just trying to give you an easy way to understand why we don't think this number is unreasonable for what we're proposing).
	+ Whether or not this cost is reasonable relative to what we as a congregation are able and willing to support financially is one purpose for the feasibility study. And that is why I am urging you to participate in the study. Cliff will have some instructions for you in a minute and will tell you several ways that you can help us gather the information we need, so that we know how to proceed.
* One last note about this plan and that is: while the exact layout and space allocation is still being thought through, this existing sanctuary and adjoining areas will support our Junior and Senior High Youth needs. Actually this would provide about twice the amount of space for these ministries that we had initially planned - allowing for growth and not simply providing a bare minimum to meet current needs.

**Exterior:**

Now let me tell you just a few things about the exterior :

We would have two grade level entries for the addition: One on the north side (where the driveway is now) and another on the south side which will also be a covered entrance.

* We would be able to preserve an area that has been useful to us in many ways; the west lawn, where we have the outdoor meals, baptisms, and communion services that are part what makes us unique.
* As you look at this slide behind me, I want you to remember that this is only to give you an idea of what the building might look like. We certainly haven’t finalized all the details like window shapes and sizes, exterior surfaces, but you can get an idea of shape, size, and position relative to the current building.
* At this time, the portion of the addition that joins to the current educational wing would have a flat roof that can be used to place HVAC equipment out of sight.
* We would, of course, lose some parking area where the addition is planned, but we will add more parking closer to Brick Lane.  We’d also have traffic loops that would funnel cars between drop off points at the doors and the parking areas. And we have positioned the addition so that most of the parking will be in close proximity to the main core of the church building.

**Finally**:

* I want to mention that none of this planning has been done simply to make us bigger.
* We see God blessing the work here in Elverson, and we want to be used in the best way to further the ministries He has called us to do.
* We know that we can't do that well in our current facility.
* We know that we need more space even to handle current ministry well, much less future growth and needs.
* We need your support. I am talking about your understanding of what God has called us to, and what your role in that effort is.
* The building we are considering is just a tool. It is not what we are here to do. But, it is an important part of making it possible for us to do what we are here on earth, in Elverson to do... and that is to serve, minister, teach and fellowship together … to preach Biblical Truth, build Strong Relationships, and practice Practical Help.
* Remember that these plans are far from complete and that we need your participation in the study to help us move ahead.  With the understanding that many of our answers are going to be, "We don't know yet. We are not that far in the process," I and my colleagues will be happy to answer any questions you have.