

CUMC Parking Committee Minutes

July 7, 2015

Present: Patricia Gruber, Bob and Judy Smith, Matt Rader

Absent (but with us in spirit): Tom Kupferer

The meeting began at 7 pm with everyone present sharing their perspective on the CUMC parking situation. There was no consensus on the parking problem.

Some participants did not feel there is a parking problem as there is adequate parking in the general vicinity of the church. Some felt that while we are land locked with 3 competing churches within a block of CUMC, our parking situation is just a part of attending CUMC. Members just need to adjust to the location of our building and our parking situation.

Others in the group felt that the lack of parking poses a significant concern, especially for those who are elderly, disabled, or have young children. The inability to drop people off in a convenient fashion or park near the church that may have trouble walking and or managing the weather conditions safely is a very real concern. It was noted that some members are not attending for the reasons of access and accessibility.

Another concern raised was that CUMC is in the suburbs and not "in the city" with associated parking issues. It was expressed that suburban people do not expect parking issues when attending a church and this will play a factor in whether or not new or current members will attend CUMC. It was shared that other UMC churches in Naperville (Grace and Wheaton/Salem) have plentiful parking.

A final concern raised involved Pastor Grace her abandon car in the CUMC lot that needs to be removed. Removal of her car would free one spot.

After a period of sharing perspectives, the group reviewed a handout of free Naperville parking in the area as well as the worship schedules of the 3 other churches that surround CUMC. Our church worship schedule competes with St. Peter and Paul most closely.

After this sharing we began a brainstorming discussion on what CUMC could do to address the concerns over parking. The ideas generated included:

1. Making sure we have an approved easement with the former bank on Center Street to use their lot.
2. Making sure our signage on our CUMC parking lot us up-to-date and reserved for CUMC members and visitors.
3. Looking at the possibility on high church days (Christmas Eve, Easter, etc.) we have a shuttle that can take worshipers to and from the Benton garage (west of Washington Street).
4. As the church goes about renovation/expansion, there needs to be a covered drop-off and walkway for members. The current drop off on Center Street becomes congested and dangerous depending on traffic and weather conditions.

5. Having a greeter/valet at the lower Center Street doors may assist with members who have young children or need assistance in getting in and out of the church.
6. Petitioning the City to see if more handicap parking spaces could be placed on Center Street.
7. Creating a map that might be found in the pews informing worshipers of places they can park. This map might also be placed on our website.

Those in attendance were most excited about what the new addition might be able to provide by way of drop off and pick up. That said, none of us were aware of the drawings and what was planned. Patricia volunteered to get the drawings for the next meeting.

We all agreed that we wanted this group to be short lived group. We agreed that our next meeting would be July 21 at 7 pm at church. At that meeting we would bring back any other ideas about how to best manage our parking situation at CUMC and discuss the drawings Patricia had found.

We adjourned around 8:00 pm.

CUMC Parking Committee Minutes

July 21, 2015

Present: Patricia Gruber, Bob and Judy Smith, Matt Rader

Absent: Tom Kupferer

The meeting began shortly after 7 pm. Patricia Gruber was able to obtain drawings of the projected renovation of CUMC. Patricia, Bob, Judy and Matt reviewed these drawings in light of what we perceived were needs for parking. After reviewing, we had the following recommendations for the building committee.

1. We think it would be good if the drop off area could permit 2 cars to simultaneously drop off individuals to church. Basically, we think this needs to be able to accommodate 2 cars at a time.
2. We felt the south west portion of the existing parking lot should accommodate 4 handicap spots. Presently, the drawings only permit parking for 2 cars.
3. We wondered if parking on Benton could be requested from the City. As the old parsonage has been removed, we didn't think there was any need for restrictions on this part of Benton.
4. We did have some concern about how the drop-off drive may take away from existing handicap parking. This potential loss only further pushes the need for more handicap parking in the existing parking lot.
5. We are hopeful that the drop-off area for the new south entrance to CUMC will be covered. That will make the transition for individuals needing extra time in inclement weather much easier.

We determined there wasn't much more we could do about parking at CUMC after discussing the new church addition plans. We determined that our work was now completed.

We concluded our meeting at approximately 7:45 pm.