

BWZ

August 8, 2011

Attn: Amy Scanlon
Secretary of the Landmarks Commission
Department of Planning and Community & Economic Development
City of Madison
215 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Madison, WI 53701

Re: St. Paul University Catholic Center
723 State Street, Madison, WI 53706

Dear Amy Scanlon,

On behalf of St. Paul University Catholic Center, we submit a request for the opportunity of an informational presentation to the Landmarks Commission at the Commission's meeting on August 22, 2011. We have included twelve copies of rendered plans, elevations, and perspectives for the Commission's consideration. A description of the general purpose and intent of the project follows.

St. Paul University Catholic Center

St. Paul University Catholic Center, which has been a major presence at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for more than 100 years, plans to build a church/student center facility on the UW campus. The proposed St. Paul University Catholic Center will enable St. Paul's to better serve the university and greater Madison community.

- The new facility will serve as a center of student life on campus, blending faith, community and academic aspects of the university experience.
- The proposed facility is 6 stories tall. Features, based on feedback from students, City Agencies, and the community, include:
 - A 450-seat multilevel chapel incorporating reclaimed elements of original 1909 chapel
 - A student center with private study space, small- and large-group gathering space, and music rooms
 - Office, conference, work, and library facilities
 - Dining/multi-purpose hall
 - Residential space for resident priests, priests in training and visiting scholars
 - Exterior patios overlooking State Street and the interior of the block
- The cost of the new facility is estimated at \$25 million and is expected to be raised from a small group of benefactors who have long supported joint church/student center projects. Groundbreaking is anticipated in the next two to three years.

St. Paul's Ministry

- St. Paul's is the birthplace of the campus Catholic ministry in the United States. UW's Catholic campus ministry was formed in 1883, and graduates who were part of this group started the "Newman Movement," designed to serve Catholics on college campuses. The initial St. Paul's Chapel was built in 1909, the first Catholic chapel built specifically to serve students at a public university. The chapel and student center were renovated in 1967, with a contemporary concrete expression.
- Student involvement in St. Paul's has grown significantly over the past 10 years and has far exceeded the ability of the existing facility to meet these present and expanding needs. The current facility, parts of which date back to the late 1800s, is severely outdated, cramped and in need of major upgrades.
- St. Paul's serves thousands of UW students annually. Approximately 1,000 students attend Sunday Mass, and hundreds are actively involved in other St. Paul programs – ranging from small group sessions to national service projects. Additionally, St. Paul's hosts dances, a theater arts program, a speaker series and concerts designed to appeal to all students and community members, extending the university's reach beyond its campus borders. The new facility will allow for expansion of those programs together with augmented educational programs.

Architectural Expression

- The proposed building design represents a "new classicism", combining traditional Catholic forms and symbolism with a modern energy. It complements the surrounding university buildings, which mix both traditional and contemporary styles of architecture. The State Street church façade acknowledges the scale and character of the adjacent Pres House Church while the façade above steps back to maintain the scenic, uninterrupted views between Bascom Hill and the Capitol Square. The height, mass and style and detail make an architectural and institutional statement without being over imposing.
- Proposed materials include predominately face brick with natural and cast stone spandrels and trim elements.

Please call or email with any questions regarding this submittal. We look forward to meeting with you and members of the Commission at the August 22nd meeting to present the new St. Paul University Catholic Center.

Sincerely,



Robert Shipley
BWZ Architects