

RE Committee Recommendations for New Building Use  
March 14, 2008

The RE Committee recommends that overall building use decisions give priority to programs of the Meeting over those requested from outside the Meeting. With regard to religious education, this would mean that certain areas be designated, furnished and appointed in ways that support the holistic education of the children and youth. Some examples of such use would be as follows:

1. The Annex be furnished and appointed as a "youth room." The furnishings would include couches and chairs that give the growing number of high school aged youth a sense that it is their special place. Other groups using this space would be expected to restore it to the state in which they found it. Posters and materials the young people put up would stay there throughout the week. Scheduling of events for the Meeting's youth would take priority over scheduling of other events in the space. This use of space will be extremely important as the large groups of children now in children's First Day School enter middle school and high school. It would give the older youth a sense that they are valued and younger youth will have that to look forward to.

The Annex can be divided for First Day School with mid-high in one side and senior high in the other. If this does not work, mid-highs can meet in the Library during FDS, since MFW is in session at that time and the mid-high youth would not make enough noise to disrupt that.

2. Spaces used for teaching children should have areas for storage of materials to be used by the classes held there. Wall space for displaying and leaving up children's work should be provided in the new building. Teachers should not have to take down and replace displays from week to week. Adequate visual and sound privacy should be provided for First Day School sessions. The use of space and furnishings should make it easier for teachers rather than adding work for those who volunteer to work with our children and youth.

This might be accomplished by securing a room divider to separate the two halves of the new building. We suggest dedicating the old rolling kitchen cabinets to be used for supplies for each of the classes who will meet there: the K-1 class and the Gr 2-4 class. We recommend purchasing standing, rolling white board/bulletin board combos, one for each class. These can be rolled to a wall during the week as can the cabinets.

3. While the Library can be used by groups for religious education purposes, it should not be used for storing religious educational materials and displays.

4. The phone room should be arranged for and dedicated primarily to use of RE. It should be furnished and equipped for the youngest children. The outside door should not be used except as a fire exit in case of emergency.

5. An area for RE announcements (class roster, schedule, etc.) should be provided in the new building where people gather.

The RE Committee would like to work closely with the Building Committee and Transition Committee to set up the spaces as the new facilities become available for furnishing and equipping.