

REVEREND MCVETY - Richmond Alliance Church

INTERVIEWED: April 11, 1975

T.41.2

Origin of Congregation

Many Richmond residents attending the Vancouver Alliance Church at 10th & Ontario. Reverend McVety was the Associate Pastor there. He was asked in May, 1972 to start meetings here. He owned a home on Amethyst Avenue in Richmond and meetings were held there, every Thursday night. They then rented the gym. at Hugh McRoberts School and commenced public meetings.

Search for Property

Through the Extension Committee they had bought $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres on No. 3 Road in August, 1971, present site of church. 660' x 165' wide, well treed on the site of a cedar nursery. A barn was on the site of the church. No trees were removed in the construction. They had to put in a bridge as the property edge is on the ditch and so a very heavy new bridge cost \$5,000. and there are no indications by the municipality will fill in these ditches.

Building

Vern Delgatty from a Vancouver firm of Architects was given the philosophy of the church as a family meeting building and had to develop it from there.

Cost

\$25,000. for lot plus \$300. for newly planted cedars put in the year previously.

Building Superintendent, Bob Lofgren, oversaw the building with volunteer labour and two full-time workers.

../2

Cost - \$175,000. covered about 12,000 square feet - almost half the cost at the time per foot through this volunteer labour.

Plan

Rectangular room in centre of complex of 50 x 70 feet. Surrounded on all four sides by service rooms.

Auditorium

Multi-purpose room - Sunday used as sanctuary - no pews, but chairs set up in a semi-circle (reasons for this explained). Often on a Sunday there are church suppers in here.

Weekly: - Badminton night
- Basketball
- Floor Hockey - on family nights.

Exterior

Entrance in north-east corner of building leading to a carpetted foyer. Stucco exterior, shades of white and reddish brown. Roof of cement shakes. Centre part is flat with sloping roofs down from there.

Financing

Through local bank, with backing of District - of \$115,000. increased to \$135,000. Temporary loan from District of \$35,000, plus loans from certain members.

Parsonage

Built on site January, 1974 - saw plans in a book and built by congregation. Put up in south-east corner.

Tour of Building

Started at foyer - in north segment - minister's study and office, leading to nursery.

Furnace in extreme south-east corner supplied by gas hot water heating through pipes under floor. Cost - \$48,000. Zoned heating.

.... /3

.../3

Nursery

Two sections, play area and rest area with sink and washroom.

Back through foyer to east corridor - janitor's cupboard, men's and women's washrooms. Left side of hall is "fireplace room" - using bricks removed from building originally on site. Room used for small groups, also weddings. 25 x 50 feet in size holding up to 100 people. Planning to put in patio area from double doors in here, also an adventure playground for children. Many of families come for picnics. First service held outside in 1973 - faces No.3 Rd.

Lighting is fluorescent except main auditorium and fireside room. Other rooms lead to Day Care Centre (have Day Care for Mentally Retarded Children Association five days a week).

Continuing round hallway into south wing to a large recreation room with three cross beams which will later hold sliding partitions.

Behind building is only 30 feet of church property backing unto a raspberry plantation. Church had to install its own sewage disposal unit costing about \$7,000., as too large a building to use a septic tank (Municipal By-law).

Auditorium

Very large room with only a piano in it. Walls very high and covered with indoor-outdoor carpetting. Grids on wall are over the air-exchange system. Could put in air-conditioning if needed. Floor tiled but carpet is laid down on Sunday morning for speaking area.

Groups Using Building

No other outside groups apart from Day-Care group. Families of congregation use it well as recreation centre.

Upstairs

Small room upstairs leading off foyer - was used as first meeting area at beginning of construction. Now is Sunday School

.... /4

.../4

room and storage room, will be finished later.

Role of Youth

No official youth group yet as congregation is made up of young families. With growth of congregation one will be instituted.

Role of Women

There are two Ladies Groups active in the church. They could hold administrative roles but none have come forward. They could be ordained also. Many are missionaries.

The Alliance Church

Is primarily a missionary alliance, world-wide with over a 1,000 missionaries in 48 countries.

Each congregation is autonomous but answerable to the District Superintendent. Have local church board and a constitution governing the church. Richmond Alliance Church is not yet fully organized into this constitution, but will be probably within a year. Each of the three Canadian districts for the alliance in Canada. Each district has a local conference each year, every third year all Canadian districts meet.

There is an annual council of the alliance of all churches in North American and representatives of national churches throughout the world. Headquarters are in Nyack, New York.

Ordination of Ministers

Canadian Theological College in Regina, part of University of Saskatchewan.

Upkeep

Tithing at Sunday services. Church is self-supporting at the moment. With the assistance of the Western Canada District they are able to achieve this as the District pays the interest on their loans.

.../5

.../5

Background of Congregation

Mainly Richmond residents, some coming from Ladner and Vancouver. Mostly Anglo-Saxon but had some Chinese members needing Chinese-language services - a church for them was opened downtown Vancouver and is well attended.

Plans for Future

Outreach to community, more advertising of facilities as an extension of the family. Reverend McVety is not continuing as Pastor but hopes to remain in Richmond.

M. NOBLE