

## Facility Initiative Committee Holds First Meeting With Architect

The Facility Initiative Committee (FIC) met Nov. 27 with architect John Waite to discuss the temple's building needs, review the scope of his work, and plan the next steps in the project.

The meeting was the first between the FIC and Waite since the Board of Trustees approved a contract with the architect.

Waite said the next two steps in the project will occur simultaneously. He will evaluate the current building, with a particular eye on such things as building codes, zoning, and the condition of the physical plant.

At the same time, he will be gathering "programming" information from the Board, the rabbis, temple committees, and the congregation. This information will help determine the specific building needs of the synagogue. At the current time, these needs tentatively include:

- ❑ 10 classrooms
- ❑ sanctuary that seats 150 and could expand to 300
- ❑ rabbis' office(s)
- ❑ library
- ❑ religious school administrator's office
- ❑ office manager/temple administrator's office(s)
- ❑ board room
- ❑ coat room
- ❑ lobby/meeting area
- ❑ youth group lounge
- ❑ HVAC room
- ❑ oneg area
- ❑ kitchen expansion

Waite told the FIC that it was important not to "over-build" nor to "under-build" because both mistakes can be costly. He said building in phases was probably the most affordable and sensible approach for the temple.

Waite said his initial idea for design would have office and classroom space in the older part of 509 Broadway, with the sanctuary in the newer part of the facility. A new entrance, which would be fully handicapped accessible, off the rear of the current building is also an option. He emphasized that it is important that the Temple strive for 100 percent handicap accessibility, but there may be some flexibility for the older part of the building.

The Board of Trustees is seeking to gather as much input as possible from the congregation on the building project. A number of special meetings with Waite will be held in the coming weeks to discuss these issues, including a Dec. 16 meeting during Sunday School. The meetings are designed to get feedback from members of the congregation and Temple committee chairs.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact a member of the FIC, if you have any questions or comments or would like to attend a small group meeting with the architect. The FIC is currently comprised of the Board of Trustees and Bernie Foreman.