



TEMPLE ETZ CHAIM

To our Dedicated Temple Community:

Our Building Committee is writing to update you on the ongoing efforts for our synagogue's future home. Since our last communication several months ago, the committee has been diligently working amidst a changing landscape, and we appreciate your continued patience and support.

Our initial plan, developed pre-pandemic, served as a strong foundation. However, with the significant changes in the construction industry over the past few years, it became crucial to explore all options thoroughly. We revisited our original plan, considered several new variations, and solicited proposals from various contractors to ensure we find the most feasible and cost-effective solution.

Unfortunately, we encountered a significant hurdle – the unexpected rise in construction costs due to inflation. Initial estimates significantly differ from today's reality, presenting a substantial challenge to our project's budget. Additionally, unforeseen issues and variables have emerged, both including raw materials and our engagement with several builders, impacting our overall fiscal position.

While these challenges are undeniable, we want to assure you that the committee has not been idle. We have met and pursued different options, researched extensively, and explored various scenarios to navigate these hurdles. However, given the complexities involved, the committee acknowledges that further expertise and adjustments are necessary to move forward responsibly.

To ensure the best possible outcome for our community, we recognize the need for additional guidance and collaboration. Therefore, we are taking the following steps:

- **Engaging experts:** We will be consulting with construction advisors to assess our current fiscal capabilities and identify sustainable funding solutions.
- **Expanding expertise:** We plan to re-engage with at least two of the options we have sought in the past six months to see if those are prudent, possible, or merely wishful thinking.
- **Transparency and communication:** We will more frequently update the community on our progress, including sharing detailed information and providing opportunities for feedback. We realize this has been a gap, as our work has been delayed, our priorities disparate, and our patience tested.

עץ חיים היא למחזיקים בה

... IT IS A TREE OF LIFE TO THOSE WHO HOLD IT FAST...

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This journey towards our new home requires patience, understanding, and collective effort. While unforeseen obstacles have emerged, we remain committed to our shared vision. We are confident that through collaboration, financial prudence, and continued dedication, we will find the path forward to build a building that serves our community for generations to come. Whether that follows earlier iterations of this project, in full honesty, remains a question.

Thank you for your unwavering support. We will strive to keep you better informed as we move forward, and we welcome your active participation and new perspectives in this important endeavor. Please know that while momentum has slipped, dedication has not.

Sincerely,

The Temple Etz Chaim Building Committee:

Rabbi Tom Alpert
Carl Citron
Gary Dauer
Lee Rich
Andrew Rubenstein
Michael Rubin
Michelle Rubin
Richard Shulman

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