

Project Proposal

Olivet Presbyterian Church Preschool

Purpose: To provide a Christian preschool opportunity for families in our community to ready children to attend Kindergarten, academically, socially and spiritually.

Design: The Preschool will operate September-May, on the Albemarle County School schedule. It will consist of two classes of up to 12 students each; one for 3 year olds, and one for 4 year olds. The anticipated maximum enrollment is 24 students. The 3 year old class would operate in the mornings, 9 am to 12 noon, 3 days a week. The 4 year old class would operate in the mornings, 9 am to 12 noon, 5 days a week.

Public Need and Benefit: The benefit of a preschool education in preparing children for kindergarten and academic success later in school is well established. Within the Olivet congregation there are 8-10 children who could enroll in a preschool at Olivet. In addition, demographic data indicates a sizable population of preschool aged children within a 5 mile radius of the Olivet Church. Finally, limitations on funds and school facilities have not allowed the establishment of a County Bright Stars program in nearby Meriwether Lewis, Murray, or Broadus Wood Elementary Schools. Conversations the Olivet Mission Committee had with Albemarle County's Bright Stars Coordinator several years back indicated that there were numerous children in our area without access to a Bright Stars Class who could benefit from an Olivet Preschool if scholarship assistance were provided.

Administration: The Olivet Preschool will be directed by a Preschool Committee, currently consisting of: Ashley Buford, Chair; Joe Derrico, Preschool parent; Betsy Dishman, Director of Music and Children's Ministries; Emily Mora, Olivet Preschool Teacher; Travis Schnell, Olivet Preschool Teacher; Kacie-Linn Engle, member-at-large. The Preschool Committee will be overseen by the Christian Education Committee of the Olivet Session (governing board). A volunteer treasurer will handle bookkeeping. Betsy Dishman, Olivet's Children's Ministry Director, will serve as staff coordinator and resource.

Staffing: For children ages 2-6 Virginia law requires 1 adult for every 1-10 children and 2 adults for 11-20 children. In keeping with the Olivet Child Protection Policy however, each Olivet Preschool class would be staffed by 2 adults; a lead teacher with a college level degree in education; and an assistant with gifts for and experience in working with children. Background checks and First Aid, CPR and AED certifications will be required of all staff. Additional staff would provide weekly art instruction, music instruction, and Bible story activity.

Facilities: The Olivet Preschool will use three existing rooms in the basement of the Olivet Church, one for each class and one for break out groups. Basement bathrooms and a small kitchen in the basement will be used as well.

Parking: The Preschool would use the handicap-accessible ramp entrance to the basement classrooms on the west side of the church building. The adjoining parking lot has 18 spaces (3 handicap). A large overflow parking lot is located approximately 50 yards away.

Outdoor activities: The Preschool will use the outside playground located between the west side of the church and the Olivet Manse for 30 minutes of physical activity each day. On the days when both the 3 and 4 year old classes are in session the classes would not typically be on the playground at the same time. So no more than 12 children supervised by 2 adults will be on the playground at any time. The noise they generate would only affect our most immediate back door neighbor. Occasionally the children might be taken on a short "field trip" to a small vesper area in the woods on the hill to the west of the church. It is not likely that these hikes would impact our immediate neighbors at all. On days of extreme cold or inclement weather the children's recreation time will be conducted in the Olivet Fellowship Hall, again with no impact on our neighbors. Occasionally a learning activity will need to be conducted outside, but the noise generated would be negligible. For the 2014-15 school year we have been operating a small preschool for 3 year olds as a "day care home" allowed by the county. To our knowledge the outdoor activities of the children have not had a negative impact on our neighbors.

Funding: The Olivet Preschool will fund itself through the monthly tuition fees provided by attending families. With full enrollment the Preschool should be capable of granting several full scholarships, or multiple partial scholarships, to local households of limited means. The Olivet Church will support the ministry of the preschool with facilities, utilities, publicity, bookkeeping, insurance, and administrative support.

Scholarship Fund: Once the Preschool is operational, the church will explore establishing a Scholarship Trust Fund that will enable the Olivet Preschool to serve 5-6 children in the community whose parents could not afford this educational, socialization and enrichment opportunity for their children.

Impact on Public Facilities and Public Infrastructure Olivet Presbyterian Church Preschool

Located in a rural/agricultural zone of the county the Olivet Church is not serviced by county water and sewage and trash collection is privately contracted.

The Olivet Preschool may occasionally take advantage of public parks and facilities such as libraries. These visits would be scheduled and adequately supervised by staff and volunteer parents.

The main public impact of the Preschool would be on the roads as parents drive their children to and from the preschool. It should be noted that these parents would be driving their children to preschools in Charlottesville or Crozet anyway, likely travelling greater distances on county roads.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, with full enrollment, the traffic impact could involve as many as 12 cars arriving and departing at 9 am and then again at 12 noon. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday, with full enrollment, the impact could involve as many as 24 cars arriving and departing at 9 am and then again at 12 noon.

We will encourage parents to arrange for carpooling and we will consider a staggered start and end time for the two classes to spread out the time in which parents would be arriving and departing on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

**Information on the resolution of entrance-spacing
and sight-distance issues raised by VDOT
Olivet Presbyterian Church Preschool**

Subsequent to our pre-application meeting a VDOT employee visited the Olivet site and established that our east entryway did not meet current sight-distance guidelines, the two entrances were not adequately spaced apart and two trees obstructed the view up the road would need to be removed, one near each entrance.

It was communicated with the church that if the sight distance issue could be resolved and the trees removed, than the entrance spacing would not be an issue.

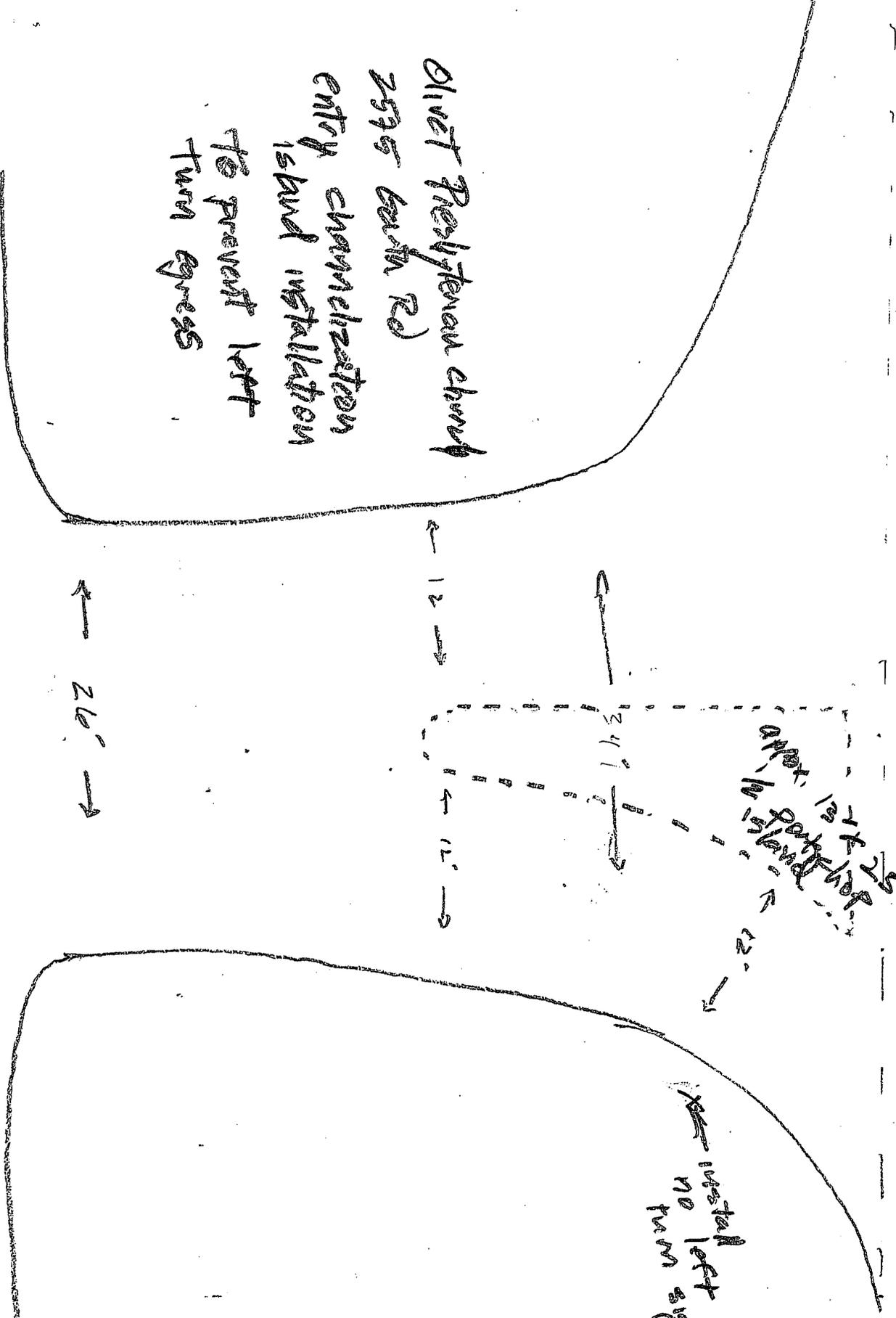
We first explored constructing a traffic island in our east entryway that would prevent left turns in and out of the entrance. However the cost, disruption and unsightliness of this island with a prescribed 50 foot side facing Garth Rd. resulted in the Olivet Session (governing board) not approving this change.

We subsequently explored securing a line-of-sight easement from our across the street neighbor; having the speed limit on the stretch of road in front of the church reduced; and determining the speed of passing vehicles to see if our sight distance was sufficient for the actual speed versus the posted speed. None of these options worked out.

In a follow-up preliminary meeting with Planning Staff and Shelly Plaster of VDOT, a smaller traffic island that would prevent a left turn out but allow a left turn in, was discussed. This island would fit on the existing entryway and not require expensive culvert and asphalt replacement, extensive grading and soil disposal. On January 13 Troy Austin of VDOT visited the Olivet site and it was determined that there was sufficient stopping distance to allow for left turns into the entryway and the size and location of the island was discussed so sketches could be drawn up to solicit cost estimates from contractors.

Planning and VDOT staff indicated that these sketches, showing the planned improvements and the tree removals would be sufficient. They are attached to this proposal.

Garth Rd



Olivet Presbyterian church
 2595 Garth Rd
 entry channelization
 island installation
 to prevent left
 turn egress

Gravel drive

~~install~~ left
 no turn sign

Paint

Olivet Presbyterian Church
2575 Garth Rd

Removal of trees
that impede line
of sight at
entry drives

Remove 1st tree
west
to east of west
entry

Garth Rd

Remove 2nd tree
to west of
east entry

Entry channelization
island to be
installed

West
Entrance

Gravel drive

Parking

Sanctuary

Parking

