

Texas Baptist Encampment Plans for a Second Century

Stephen K. Upham, M.Arch., of Crosspointe Architects, Inc., in Houston has completed a master site plan and new chapel design for Texas Baptist Encampment in Palacios. This 96-year-old camp of 18 acres is preparing for its centennial by planning for new worship, recreation, conference and dormitory facilities. Steve Upham was selected for his exclusive devotion to churches and related organizations and extensive church design experience.

The central focus of the long-term campus development plan is the new 1,000-seat chapel and conference center. This structure will feature flexible conference rooms, state-of-the-art video projection and related prayer rooms.

The campus plan also boasts future dormitories, a water park with slides, wading pool and snack bar, a ropes course, enhanced RV park, a covered amphitheatre, new store/gift shop and an oval walking loop to provide enhanced circulation around the complex. A symbolic lighthouse encircled by majestic palms will define the plaza in front of the chapel.



Artist's rendering of the worship and multipurpose center for Texas Baptist Encampment. Rendering by Ron Kent of Houston.

Of thirty Southern Baptist camps across the state, Texas Baptist Encampment is the only one located on the coast -- midway between Galveston and Corpus Christi on Tres Palacios Bay. The camp is currently undertaking a fund-raising campaign and is seeking key donors to fund the continued development of this historic complex.

Crosspointe Architects, Inc., is a Houston-based church architecture firm that offers custom architecture, master site planning services, the Crosspointe Collection of predesigned church plans and design/build with construction management services. Steve Upham has 18 years of experience designing church buildings.

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