



BIBLE CENTER CHURCH

CHARLESTON, WV



SCOPE
70,000 SF
New Construction

COST
\$15.6 million

STATUS
Completed in 2012

When Bible Center outgrew its existing campus, a 96-acre parcel was purchased for the multi-phased relocation of the worship services, administration, daycare, preschool, and private elementary school functions. Having selected such a picturesque, natural setting, the primary concept of the church leadership and design team was to develop a campus intimately connected to nature and reflective of the culture of West Virginia.

Phase 1 of the campus master plan includes a 1,200 seat interim worship space conducive to a range of worship styles and settings. Flexibility drove the functional characteristics of the room, which will ultimately serve as a multipurpose fellowship hall for dramatic presentations, receptions, conferences, and dinners after the Phase 3 Sanctuary is constructed. Entry and way-finding is marked very strongly through the development of the lobby, or "Gathering Space" of Phase 1. The architectural detailing of this space, as well as its entrance canopy, works to establish the posture of the building's character and convey the ministry attitude of Bible Center. In addition to pre and post service fellowship functions, the Gathering Space is open throughout the week where people are encouraged to meet, relax, and have a cup of coffee. The two-story fireplace and scripture engraved mantle, along with the richly textured fabrics, stonework, slate, and wood trim presents a comfortable, iconic image connecting with users at a familiar and personal level. In developing great worship venues for all ages, the upper floor of the building houses six large adult classrooms, similarly detailed with many elevated views to the site. The lower level of Phase 1 is focused on the nursery and children's ministries and is anchored by the Children's Theatre, a heavily themed 180 seat worship space detailed with a woodland shed stage, indoor trees, and camp-style light strings. The finishes of the children's spaces are playful and vibrant while maintaining a connection to the earthy tones of the design concept.

AWARDS:

AIA WV Merit Award for Achievement in Architecture





