

MAKING ROOM QUESTIONS, VOLUME 2

Some answers to commonly asked questions about the MAKING ROOM project at Saint Paul's UMC. Please check our website for all documents referenced.

If you would like hard copies, please contact the Church Office.

WHAT IS THE UNDERLYING PURPOSE OF THIS INITIATIVE?

Ultimately, the purpose of this initiative is to facilitate Saint Paul's accomplishment of the Great Commission: *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:19-20)*

MAKING ROOM is a **part of the strategic plan developed as a result of an extensive and intensive critical self-evaluation** to implement our mission and our vision by engaging many of the **core values** of the church.

The mission of Saint Paul's United Methodist Church is to be a **faithful community of disciples who serve as the heart, hands and feet of Christ so that all people come to know the love of God.**

MAKING ROOM is critical to our mission. The need to update our facilities to make them more functional and attractive is long overdue and will allow us to expand ministries that are currently over-subscribed (MOPS, for example), further develop our other healthy ministries, and begin new ministries to meet the needs of the community outside our walls.

As a faithful community of disciples, we need to be thoughtful stewards of the facilities that have been entrusted to our care. This means more than just making them attractive. This means making them functional and making better use of them.

We need to invest in our future, particularly our families with children and youth. Our facilities need to be more inviting and updated technologically. This is a digital age, and to be engaged we need to be digitally engaged in an inviting campus. If we can engage, then we can become the heart, hands and feet of Christ beyond ourselves so that others can come to know the love of God. If we cannot engage, then we will be limited to ministering to ourselves, a selfish ministry that falls short of our mission.

The vision of Saint Paul's United Methodist Church is to
glorify God wholeheartedly
grow the community of the faithful and nurture the faithfulness of that community
alleviate suffering wherever it is found
advocate for social justice

MAKING ROOM implements our vision. The decline of our facilities does not glorify God. It does not glorify God to have underutilized space and to encounter water stains, peeling paint, outdated lighting, inaccessible facilities, audio-visual systems that do not work, and facilities that treat adults far better than they treat children and youth. Our facilities communicate to those outside our congregation who do not share the memories we associate with these facilities we have come to love and we want that story to be one of vibrant life and ministry.

Our existing facilities are impeding our ability to **grow** the community of the faithful, and we are not using our facilities as well as we could to **nurture the faithfulness** of our community. **MAKING ROOM** will help change that shortcoming.

Some of our **core values** that are most directly related to this project include:

We will be a community of joy that celebrates easily and laughs freely.

Do our facilities communicate joy and vibrancy?

We will be a church that is humble in our victories and honest in our failures, struggles and doubts. We will be truthful with each other and with God.

Part of truth-telling is being able to face the facts of outdated facilities; ministries that cannot grow; declining membership that points to a need to grow. But as we hold out truth in one hand, we hold out hope with another – the leadership of Saint Paul’s is drawn to the enormous potential of this community of faith to positively impact the community around us and to grow in ways that mirror the original vision of the church!

We will be people who do the right thing, even when it is uncomfortable; even when it costs us something.

MAKING ROOM will cost us something – financially and spiritually. But we are also convinced that it is the right thing to do for the sake of the community, for the sake of the church, and for the sake of our call to share the gospel to all ages.

We will be a church that chooses love over hate; cooperation over competition; grace over grudges.

This is important. As we move through this process we must be willing to name our concerns and ask ourselves if we are exhibiting love, cooperation and grace. The months and years of planning leading up to this decision has been filled with these characteristics. We have not always agreed on the way forward, but we have agreed to love each other deeply and to let go of personal preferences and agendas.

We will be an inclusive community that endeavors to see and nurture the good in all people because all people are created in the image of God and are of infinite sacred worth.

If we truly live into this core value, then we will understand that there are thousands of folks in our community who are still seeking Christ and a faithful community in which to belong. **They are deeply loved by God, and therefore, important to us!**

We will be a church that strives for excellence in everything we do - because God deserves our very best.

Our current facilities do not reflect this core value. We must do better. We can do better. Not for our sakes alone, but for the sake of the mission of the church and the gospel call to make disciples.

IF MAKING ROOM IS PART OF OUR STRATEGIC PLAN, WHAT ARE SOME OF THE OTHER AREAS THAT HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED, AND WHAT PROGRESS ARE WE MAKING IN THOSE AREAS?

In May 2016 the Church Council identified the priority areas in our Strategic Plan. While there is much to be done in each area, included are some of the areas of progress.

Outreach: develop and practice a strong ethos of outreach at Saint Paul’s UMC

- The very first priority area in Outreach is the improvement of our facilities for maximum potential and accessibility. Part of this goal is providing better space utilization for ministries that focus outside our church (like MOPS and Soul Food for example) and providing more attractive space for use by community groups.
- We have developed and implemented a Visitor Welcome card that gathers much needed information from our first time guests
- We have already put into place a better method of communicating with first time guests and following up regularly after several visits

- We are in the process of developing an Outreach Team

Leadership Development: provide ongoing leadership development and training for all areas of the church utilizing new technologies and platforms

- Core Ministry Team includes regular Leadership Training moments as part of their bi-monthly meetings
- Members are encouraged to attend already-existing Leadership Training events sponsored by the District or Florida Conference (already several of our folks have completed the Lay Servant Training Course and our Lay Leader has attended a Leadership event focusing on millennials)
- We are in the process of developing an *Introduction to Saint Paul's UMC* course that will serve as the first step of building a larger leadership development program.

Worship: improve the overall energy and excellence of worship

- This summer, Cynthia Prescott will be attending a training event for church music leaders that is sponsored by the Florida United Methodists and Music and Worship Arts.
- A team is forming now that is working on ways to energize our worship services – we will be working through the summer so that when we return to our regular worship schedule in August we will be ready with some fresh ideas
- We are working to design and utilize more visual arts in our sanctuary services through banners and parament designs that complement the liturgical seasons.

Social Justice: advocate for social justice

- We have already established an active Creation Care Team that has within the first year of operation gained local, district, conference and national church recognition
- We instituted a 6 week class in social justice (Fall 2016)
- We held a 6 week Faith and Justice Speaker Series (Spring 2017)
- Additional Social Justice themed classes are planned for Fall 2017

A copy of the Strategic Plan Summary and Executive Summary is available on the website under the MAKING ROOM link (**Strategic Planning**), and a more detailed document can be made available upon request.

WHAT SPACES ARE GOING TO BE AFFECTED AND HAVE CHANGED USES? DO WE HAVE A DIAGRAM SHOWING THE CURRENT AND PROPOSED USE OF SPACE?

In our Narthex and in Sanders Hall there are two large vision boards that show the reallocation of space that will occur as part of this renovation project. The same document can be found on our website (**Layout of Buildings**).

Basically, the changes are as follows:

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY under the new plan will take the 200 level classrooms and Foundation as dedicated space for their programs and offices. This will house ministries from nursery through elementary school, allow a covered drop off area throughout the week for Parents Morning Out and MOPS, and will provide easier access to both play areas. This area is currently being utilized by youth ministry (one day/week) and by three adult Sunday School classes (one day/week).

YOUTH MINISTRY under the new plan will take the 2 classrooms on the 200 level (Rooms 210 and 211) as dedicated space and will have for their use on Sunday evenings the multi-purpose Parlor, Chapel and downstairs kitchen. Currently the youth use classroom space in the Foundation (on Wednesday afternoons) and Sanders Hall on Sunday evening.

ADULT MINISTRY will continue to utilize the 300 level classrooms. In addition the renovated Chapel will serve as an accessible Sunday School room, and the multipurpose Parlor will be available as well. Three of the 300

level classrooms under the sanctuary that now serve as our nursery area will be renovated for use by Adult Sunday School classes.

MISSIONS will now have a dedicated room on the 300 level so they no longer have to operate out of the hallway in the Foundation. This will accommodate our expanding SOUL FOOD ministry and serve as a collection point for ECHO and other outreach ministries.

SANDERS HALL NARTHEX will no longer be utilized for missions collections but can be better used as a hospitality/information center on Sunday mornings.

OFFICE STAFF will have available to them one of the classrooms below the sanctuary for a conference room, and the fourth nursery room on that same level will be utilized for a café/consultation lounge/bridal room as needed.

IS THERE ANY WAY TO ROLL IN CURRENT INDEBTEDNESS INTO THE MAKING ROOM PROJECT, OR ADD ANY MUCH-NEEDED PROJECTS TO THE RENOVATIONS THAT ARE PLANNED?

The United Methodist Foundation has indicated that the remaining balance of our **current HVAC loan** (\$110K) can be rolled into the renovation line of credit. If we do this, and also include the additional work of **a total resurfacing and repainting of our parking lots** (a much needed project at a cost of \$54,000), we will need to reduce the overall renovation budget by this amount in order to stay within the maximum loan of \$1 million.

Our architect will discuss with us in the next week the impact on the MAKING ROOM project that a reduction of \$164K might make on the overall project. We could then go forward in considering whether we might want to include the HVAC loan and parking lot resurfacing into the maximum credit line of \$1 million.

If we were able to accomplish this, the impact on our loan repayment would be as follows:

The **current** payment on the HVAC loan is \$1982.00/month or \$23,784/year; the interest-only payment on the line of credit loan for the first two years would be \$35,683/year.

The **net difference** to the operating budget for the first two years of the loan would be **\$935-1032/month, or \$11,899/year**. This is something that is very easily achieved in our congregation (approximately \$5.46/month increase per giving unit)

Compare this to the **\$2917-3014/month or \$35,683/year additional** funds that would be needed if we did not roll the HVAC loan into the construction loan (\$15.94/month increase per giving unit)

While both amounts are certainly attainable, it is possible to significantly reduce the monthly impact on our Operating Budget **and** include the HVAC loan and parking lot improvements into the MAKING ROOM project while still keeping a maximum credit line of \$1 million.

NOTE: many have asked again about the voting process and have challenged the requirement for attendance at the meeting in order to vote. Please know that this is a requirement of the *United Methodist Book of Discipline* and not something imposed by the leadership of Saint Paul's UMC.