

MAKING ROOM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Volume 3, May 19, 2017

Why have long-standing, identified capital needs of the church been left out of this proposal? (re-paving the parking lot, paying off existing debt, funding reserves)

Most of these identified capital needs of the church are actually **being included in this proposal**. As you will learn on Monday evening, the project includes not only space reallocation and updating of our facilities but also includes rolling in the current balance of the existing HVAC loan and also repairing, resurfacing and repainting of our parking lot ALL WITHIN THE ONE MILLION DOLLAR CAP.

Is there a priority and order that the work will be accomplished?

Yes, and in some ways priority and order of work are consistent. In sum, it is as follows

Parlor ceiling **Chapel renovation** **Youth rooms** **Downstairs kitchen**

This work will be done first as it will be necessary to have these areas usable in order to empty out the 200 wing and Foundation for the newly assigned Children's Wing.

Children's Wing **300 Level (sanctuary)**

This portion of the project is also high priority in order to accommodate an existing and urgent need for space to expand our ministry to families and children (MOPS for example has an enrollment cap and a waiting list that can be eliminated with the reallocation and renovation). The 300 level classrooms in the sanctuary level (the current nursery area) are required to house adult Sunday School classes that will be displaced from the 200 wing or have outgrown their space in the 300 level Sanders Hall wing.

300 Level (Sanders Hall)

This will be the final portion of work accomplished and should require the least amount of displacement during the work itself.

It is important to note that we are seeking the line of credit loan so that we might accomplish the work all at one time - in the above construction order, but without large time gaps in between each phase. Doing this saves us **considerable** money because it effectively shortens the construction period and management costs by 11-17%. There are additional cost savings realized in doing the project in a single piece rather than in time-separated phases.

Why do we have to go into debt for this project? Wouldn't it be wiser to raise the money first, and then do the renovations?

For almost 20 years, an update and upgrade of our facilities has been a stated part of the Strategic Plan of Saint Paul's UMC. Indeed, there were even more ambitious construction plans that are part of the history of Saint Paul's that date back over 20 years. The need is urgent if we want to move forward in **enhancing our existing ministries and make better space utilization for ministry expansion**. We have a beautiful but tired and dated facility that is having difficulty competing with newer or renovated facilities. Our inability or unwillingness to see the facility we love through the eyes of others who do not

share our history is frustrating our ability to discharge the Great Commission and implement our mission and vision.

When is the last time you walked through our facilities with a critical eye? I would invite you to do this – try to see with the eyes of a first time visitor or guest. What are your impressions?

One possibility that exists in funding options is to wait until we have raised all the money needed to accomplish our purposes. If that takes 3-5 years, it would be accurate to say that the cost will increase during that period. It also means 3-5 years of work not being done, ministry opportunities not being realized, potential growth being put on hold, and further deterioration of our facilities. The leadership of the church (Governing Board) senses a deep urgency in moving forward with our plans, and are confident that this debt would be healthy.

If we respond as a community of faithful disciples with an eye to the future, this will not be a financial burden. However, if we continue to fail to make our facilities attractive and functional and if we continue to underutilize our facilities, then we will face further financial strains. We are called to act. We are called to act in faith. The leadership of the church has seen this for almost two decades. **MAKING ROOM** is a necessary initiative for Saint Paul's to live into Christ's call.

What will the Monday evening Church Conference look like?

The Church Conference begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All are invited to attend, but only present members are eligible to vote according to Book of Discipline regulations. The District Superintendent, Rev. Durwood Foshee, will preside at the meeting and will begin with a short devotional. Following this, our Lay Leader Don Griesheimer will present a brief summary of the MAKING ROOM plan and its context in the overall Strategic Plan for Saint Paul's UMC. This presentation will end with the motion to fund this project by securing a loan of no more than \$1 million from the United Methodist Foundation. At this point, the District Superintendent will run the meeting and call for a vote from the members present. The motion will pass or fail based on a simple majority vote.