

Greetings,

On Thursday, October 17, the Lead Team received an update on the early stages of a Capital Fund Drive.

I would like to share with the congregation an update as well.

Word from the United Methodist Dakotas Conference indicates that we will receive nearly \$34,000 from the “Builder’s Club.” This includes a generous \$15,000 match, which is part of the “Builder’s Club” program.

The early funding communication indicates that 11 families (giving units) have pledged nearly \$90,000 over the next two years. This brings the pledge and donations total to \$121,000 as of October 17th. I am very optimistic that we will have many more families participate.

The Lead Team is calling for a “Q&A meeting” with the congregation immediately following the benediction on Sunday, November 10th, for those who would like to stay and receive more information on the capital campaign and the actual projects.

Then, one week later, is the annual “Charge Conference” meeting, when the Lead Team will be asking members to approve moving forward with the capital campaign and the projects.

The other decision made by the Lead team on October 17 was to create pledge cards for next year’s annual budget and for a two-year commitment to the Capital Fund. These pledge cards will be available in the office, at the Charge Conference meeting, or mailed by request. The Lead team is looking at Sunday, November 24 as “Consecration Sunday” where families will have the opportunity to approach the altar in private and place their pledge cards for our ministries and for the capital campaign.

Our surveys indicated that we need to explain as much as we can about the projects, so here is a further explanation, and a possible explanation of priorities:

- The leaking roof forced leadership to deplete the available funds we had to address several of the minor projects that are listed in the campaign. Gifts covered \$15,000 of the \$60,000 cost for the roof, and thus available capital funds were used to finish that project and protect our buildings. We would hope that the capital campaign would replenish the \$45,000, so that general maintenance can continue.
- The Lead team wants to keep the bid on the parking lot private in respect for those who are offering it at a huge reduction from current industry estimates. This will be the most important infrastructure improvement, as it will also address the sidewalks and remove all curbs, using modern design to help with fewer obstacles as people enter the church, and greatly reduce the damage during snow removal.

- Much of the work on the office complex was starting before we had to take urgent action on the roof. We are optimistic that we can finish the offices in the coming year, as funds become available.
- Much of the work on insulating the parsonage garage has been done through labor and materials by Chris and Pastor Teresa. Repairing the soffit is important in avoiding future damage to the parsonage.
- The expansion of the sanctuary will be put on hold until funds are available. Many in the congregation appreciate that we all worship together, so the Lead Team is working with the Worship Committee on scheduling extra services during holidays when our capacity is taxed. (a wonderful problem).
- The refurbishing of the old restrooms will also be put on hold until later in the capital fund drive when funds are available to create a “family restroom” for privacy, as well as an updated second women’s restroom.

We hope this will answer many of your questions, evident on the surveys.

We want to know your questions.

We look forward to the meetings scheduled in November.

In His Service,

Terry - Lay Leader