

# St. Luke United Methodist Church

## 2023 Campaign Q&A's

### Money & Finances

- 1) What was taken into account when the initial \$1.7M project was determined?
  - Normal Construction costs with an additional 25K allowance for chairs and 60K for A/V
- 2) What amount or percentage was added to help cover potential increases in costs?
  - 10% for Additions and Variances and 10% for inflation.
- 3) What if \$1.7 million is not enough?
  - If the amount of pledges raised is not enough to cover costs, then the Building Committee and members of the Finance Committee and Trustees will collaborate and make a revised plan.
- 4) For 2023, our church members did not pledge enough to meet our regular budget. How can we expect to raise this additional \$1.7M?
  - When considering where and how to give their money, individuals and families consider capital campaigns and operating budgets to be 2 separate considerations.
- 5) Why are we planning this renovation rather than dealing with some of the existing major maintenance needs that the Trustees have on their plate (as a result of our aging facility)?
  - This renovation is dealing with several major maintenance needs that could not be considered in the Trustee budget, i.e. the main bathrooms, enhanced sound, video equipment, lighting and accessibility in the sanctuary. Other needs of our aging building will also need to be addressed.
- 6) We currently have one loan for \$350,000 that was taken out to cover the upper parking lot and major HVAC work we did last year. Will we be able to borrow enough, on top of this, to cover what is needed during the actual building project?
  - After the amount of pledges raised has been determined, then the Building Committee and the Finance Committee will collaborate and make a plan.
- 7) Can we wait until the second year of pledge payments to come in before we start construction so that we have to borrow as little as possible?
  - After the amount of pledges raised has been determined, then the Building Committee and the Finance Committee will collaborate and make a plan.
- 8) Currently we are grandfathered by the Fire Department and do not have a sprinkler system. What will we do if this or other grandfathered systems must be changed?
  - The potential to lose grandfather status is always present when there is a major renovation or addition. The architect will help us try to find these things out in advance when the plan is being finalized. If we will lose grandfather status on anything, it will be added to the renovation project.
- 9) I have the money now...how do I make out the check?
  - **We are already receiving gifts toward the Campaign. Checks should be made payable to St. Luke and marked "Campaign" on the memo line. We have a *separate* designated account for all Campaign income and expenses.**

## Timing

- 1) With current economic uncertainty (recessionary signs), high inflation, high interest rates, and home budgets tighter, do we think it's the right time to do this project or should we wait?
  - We know this is a financially challenging time for all. We have approached this project from the standpoint that if the support comes in, we will move ahead with the project **up to the amount raised**. We ask each household to prayerfully consider what they can give over and above their regular giving, and we are grateful for every gift, regardless of size.
- 2) What are the beginning and ending dates for the Campaign, i.e. the period of time when gifts will come in from the congregation?
  - April 30, 2023, through April 26, 2026 are the official dates, but we are already receiving gifts now.
- 3) When will construction actually start and how long will it last?
  - We don't know. The answer to this question cannot yet be determined.
- 4) Will construction begin before all the funds are raised?
  - Construction will not start before the amount of pledges raised has been determined. After this amount has been determined, then the Building Committee and members of the Finance Committee and Trustees will collaborate and make a plan for proceeding.
- 5) Can the construction project be done in phases?
  - We will be able to determine this after the contractor is chosen and the full plan is laid out in an official schedule.
- 6) What if Pastor Marshall is reassigned to a different church during the 3-year Campaign?
  - There is no indication from the Conference that Marshall will be moved to another church before he retires; however, there are no guarantees. We are asking for pledges to be made to the Campaign because people support St. Luke and believe in the importance of this project, rather than due to their support of a specific person.

## Growth & Planning

- 1) How will the changes enhance the worship experience?
  - There will be a fresh updated look with more natural light, better audio and visual capabilities, and a more open front "stage" that is accessible to everyone.
- 2) Our attendance is getting smaller and our congregation is aging and shrinking. How are we going to sustain our church in the future and will we even need the proposed updates?
  - Making these changes to our building will not magically fill our seats, but the changes will make us more inviting. Our building is not what makes us St. Luke—it is we, the people that make St. Luke—but it is a tool that is necessary to attract people to see how we are different from other churches and how our community can make such a difference in individual lives. They won't as easily stay if there is not an appealing environment.

- 3) How will the renovation impact/benefit/change our current programs right away?
  - There is always a sense of enjoyment and pride when any of us updates our environment. Our activity may stay the same, but we have a much greater appreciation for the space. Initially we will feel that sense of enjoyment and accomplishment, but we want to take it further by inviting others to join us.
- 4) We invest the money and make a beautiful, accessible space and then what? Have we looked at focusing on developing a plan to address growth and attracting a younger demographic to the congregation? And how do we plan to get the word out (marketing) about what we have to offer?
  - This renovation does not take the place of developing a plan. The Administrative Council Visioning Team has been tasked with helping to develop a plan to address growth, attract a younger demographic and market who we are.
- 5) What is St. Luke's mission and message 10 years from now?
  - The Administrative Council Visioning Team will be working on this.

## General/Miscellaneous

- 1) Who was involved in establishing the goals/plan for the Campaign? What was their theme or strategy in establishing this Capital Campaign?
  - The entire congregation was involved. The Building Committee consisted of an equal number of men and women and members of the 9:00 and 10:30 services. They represented a wide spectrum of ages and length of time they have been members. They met for a year and sent out a church-wide survey asking people what was important to them. They determined the needs of the building project from those surveys and group meetings that were also conducted. The group consulted with Carlson West Povondra Architects. Mike West who is a long-time member of St. Luke is also a Principal Architect in that firm. He has also been involved in our previous building renovations.
- 2) Why don't we use the Great Room (like we did before COVID) for the first service and bring back the pews for the second service?
  - In brief, having worship in one place enables the congregation to do a more high quality job of sharing its worship services (through streaming) to our community and do more things on Sunday morning and during the week.
- 3) Are we bringing the pews back? Or what kind of tables and chairs will we have?
  - In the proposed plans, the pews will not be back. We will replace the current chairs with much more comfortable chairs, which many churches have gone to using. Some tables may be changed for aesthetics and ease of use, but most of the tables will remain the same.
- 4) Why were hospitality and accessibility chosen as the of the goals of this project?
  - Hospitality and accessibility are ways to describe the impact of the proposed changes. They were not pre-determined goals of the project. As needs of the project were discussed it became apparent to the Committee that they mainly settled into and could be described by these 2 categories.
- 5) Were ADA requirements a factor in the planning?
  - Yes.

- 6) Did the Building Committee consider trends in attendance and composition of the congregation when developing its plan? What types of information were considered and discussed?
- Yes; Building Committee members went to visit numerous other churches to see what their buildings were like—these included both new churches as well as older churches that had done significant renovations. The Building Committee did consider attendance and composition of the congregation and tried to present as many questions as possible in their congregation-wide survey so people could weigh in on many perspectives. At the conclusion of the survey, the Building Committee provided the congregation with the consolidated results of the survey. This information was helpful to the Building Committee as they used the survey outcome to narrow the goals to what they felt the congregation wanted.
- 7) I see a glass wall separating the sanctuary from the Great Room. How will that impact people who usually sit back there?
- The glass wall will only be closed when the number of worshipers fits in the sanctuary.
- 8) Is the planned renovation of the Sanctuary and Great Room being done with an eye toward combining the two services?
- No, at this time there is no plan to combine the services.
- 9) What will become of the old altar, pulpit, communion rail, pews, etc.?
- Options will be explored to reuse the materials from these items or donate them to be used in other churches.
- 10) How will the services be affected during the construction/renovation period? Where will staff offices be temporarily relocated (especially if the Great Room is the alternate worship space)?
- The answers to these questions have not yet been determined.