



SPECIAL EDITION OF IN TOUCH...

The Newsletter of the Mt. Zion Family May 2017

Letter from Building Committee Chair

As was reported in the March Newsletter, the Building Committee completed interviews with several highly recommended independent fund raising firms. Following significant due diligence, the Committee recommended and the Trustees, Finance Committee and Administrative Board approved the engagement of Horizons Stewardship Co. to provide primary direction to and supervision of a financial feasibility study and potential capital funds campaign for the Church. Planning for the next step of the Main Campus project, the feasibility study, is already underway and expected to be completed over the next 60 days (more information regarding this process is provided by Pat Caldwell, Chairman of the Capital Campaign Committee Leadership group, in this Special Edition of the Mt. Zion Newsletter).

I want to take this opportunity to update the Main Campus project preliminary timeline that the Building Committee outlined in the six presentations given to the members of Mt. Zion in January (copies of the presentation are still available in the Church office) regarding the product of its work and possible new facilities. As determined by the Building Committee, the overall project approval timeline, subject to change as events dictate, is as follows:

- Kickoff of Financial Feasibility Study Process – Early May
- Approval of Final Project Concept by Building Committee – June 19th
- Review of Financial Feasibility Study by Building Committee and Capital Campaign Committee Leadership Group – June 19th
- Review and Consideration of Project Concept by District Board – August
- Review and Consideration of Project by Administrative Board / Charge Conference – August
- Vote on Project by Congregation in Church Conference (if project approved by Administrative Board / Charge Conference) – Early September
- Kickoff of Capital Funds Campaign (if project approved by Congregation) – Late September

As we move forward, I am reminded of the Building Committee's purpose as outlined in its Charter: *"To provide courageous oversight of the vision and plans God has for Mt Zion United Methodist Church."* After many years of work, we do indeed have a bold plan to improve our facilities but as the Building Committee has promised to the congregation, we will not recommend any project that is not deemed to be financially feasible. Thus, please keep Mt. Zion, its ministries and the needs of the Church and the Building Committee in prayer over the coming months as the financial feasibility study is conducted and don't hesitate to contact any member of the Building Committee if you have questions.

Mark Keener, Building Committee Chair

Letter from Chair of the Capital Campaign Leadership Team

In 2004 a "vision team" was established to evaluate the needs of the church to ensure that the structures and buildings of the church continued to service the growing congregation at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church. Over the next several years a Building Committee developed and continued to put a vision in motion. Fast forward to 2016 and 2017 and you will find much work has been put forth by Building Committees, both past and present. Due to this dedication a proposed Main Campus project was formed.

Over the last year, with a tremendous amount of work and effort, the Building Committee has gathered information from various groups and individuals that reflects the needs of a diverse cross section of Mt. Zion's membership. This widespread input ensured that many facets of the congregation's needs would be addressed. To be as transparent as possible, earlier this year, the Building Committee provided six open informational sessions to the congregation. These sessions provided the members of Mt. Zion a more detailed insight into the proposed project. Based on written comments and surveys, the Main Campus project was well received. For members who were unable to attend one of the six sessions, a brief overview will be included in the "special edition" newsletter.

During the open informational sessions, a conservative budget estimated at 7.5 million dollars was presented. In addition, it was conveyed that a Capital Campaign Leadership Team (CCLT) would be formed to work with a third party fundraising consultant to provide guidance during the campaign process. Because this project will be primarily funded by capital campaign contributions, we felt it necessary to work closely with a consultant and conduct a "Feasibility Study". This study will determine the Church's ability to raise funds necessary to move forward with the proposed project. Per the informational sessions: The Building Committee will not ask the congregation to vote on a project that is not deemed to be financially feasible.

In early April the CCLT selected a well-known consulting firm, Horizons Stewardship led by Nathan Ealy. Over the next several weeks a cross section of members will be invited to a confidential meeting with Mr. Ealy to discuss the feasibility of the Main Campus project. These interviews will give Horizons a good feel for the pulse of the congregation concerning the proposed project. Questionnaires concerning the Main Campus project will also be sent to all members of Mt. Zion, requesting their feedback and comments (Please note this is not a vote). At the completion of these interviews and questionnaires, Horizons will compile the results and form a "Summary/Report" to be delivered to the Capital Campaign Leadership Team for review. The CCLT will submit the findings and recommendations to the Building Committee for further action. The Feasibility Study should be completed by the third week of June.

It is my request and prayer, as Chairman of the Capital Campaign Leadership Team that all members prayerfully consider the information that has been presented, and make decisions and comments based on your true feelings of how this church should move forward. Sincerely, **Pat Caldwell Chair – Capital Campaign Leadership Team**

*2017 marks the 190th year of being a vibrant congregation of Christian faith in Cornelius,
and an exciting year of new dreams and hopes!*



We are proud to introduce Mt. Zion's main campus vision!



Mt. Zion United Methodist Church Master Plan

*Explore the possibilities
for education,
children's ministries,
music and worship!*



After praying, researching and planning since 2004, the leaders of Mt. Zion introduce a vision: a 29,000 square foot new facility to provide accessible space for the education, children's ministry and worship needs of the church. The combination building will be in the center of the current campus giving an easily identifiable main entrance and gathering space to the church. The new facility design comes from people across all church programs conveying real needs to architects concerning Mt. Zion's present ministries and programs.



Maintaining our church's longstanding tradition, building for the needs of today and tomorrow

Why Are the New Facilities Needed?

New Educational Space

Mt. Zion's most immediate and critical need is adequate, accessible meeting space, as well as technology options for our Sunday School Classes, Bible study and spiritual growth groups. Educational space needs to be handicap accessible with easy entrance and exit, restrooms that are easy to get to, a drop off entrance and parking that requires less walking.

Children's Ministry Needs

Our Children's Ministry and SonShine Preschool have significant needs for safety features, adequate space for our classrooms, Special Needs ministry, technology options, storage, restroom and kitchen facilities.



Worship Needs

Space for the multi-faceted music program and other worship needs include:

- Chancel space for choirs and musicians (choral and instrumental) of all ages
- Worship setting for both traditional and praise and worship services
- Improved sound and technology support for worship
- Improved sight lines for all music and worship experiences
- Improved accessibility for worship experiences
- Central gathering space with accessible, handicap restrooms that are easy to find
- Nurseries that are close to where parents are worshipping, designed with safety features
- Facilities designed for high moments of life, including space for families to gather for funerals, bereavement meals or funeral visitations; space for brides, wedding parties and small receptions

Our Guiding Principles

I. Continuity of all ministries, which are the heartbeat of the church

NOTE: Many different options were considered to meet church needs. To renovate the Education Building would leave our Sunday School, Bible study groups, SonShine Preschool and Children's ministries no place to meet for 12–18 months. Renovating the sanctuary for our worship needs leaves no place for worship, funerals or weddings for 12–18 months.

II. Preserving, honoring and highlighting the present sanctuary

III. Preserving the green space in front of the church

IV. Any changes to improve the church facilities shall retain the familiar look of the present church campus.

V. Drawing the church campus closer together and making all church facilities more accessible (entrance/exit, parking/proximity) and safe

Estimated Costs

Projected costs (including an exit from Mt. Zion connecting to Antiquity, construction and furnishing): \$7.5 million dollars. The proposed new facilities are significantly more cost effective than renovation options of existing buildings.

A copy of the full presentation of the history, options, cost estimates, master plan for the campus and rationale for the current plan is available upon request from the church office.

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"MAKING, MATURING, MOBILIZING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST"

- <http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/84673593>

These are the people who have been leading, studying and guiding the vision for new facilities at Mt Zion. They would be happy to hear your questions and comments:

Building Committee

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The following Scripture verses have been the spiritual guides for the work of the Building Committee. They are read at every meeting and provide the biblical base for all the committee has done. Please join us in reading these for Mt. Zion in your devotional reading and prayers for the church:

Joshua 1: 9: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Jeremiah 29: 11-13: For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Acts 20: 28: Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.