

Building Study Committee Motion for June 13, 2017 FUMC Church Conference---

To Proceed with Design, Fundraising and Implementation of Facility Improvement Projects

Whereas a vital congregation's ability to offer the Good News of Jesus Christ to future generations requires present members to make investments in missions focused on outreach, hospitality and accessibility

Whereas the investments made by members of Westborough FUMC in 1858, 1897, and 1968 provided, with God's help and blessing, facilities for worship, fellowship, spiritual development, and outreach that served our congregation well during the 19th and 20th centuries; and

Whereas an outside philanthropy consulting firm conducted 42 interviews with 67 church members, and 93% of interviewees indicated a willingness to support the "Our Time to Build" campaign.

Whereas the Building Study Committee, as required in the UMC Book of Discipline, has received support and guidance from the District Superintendent and District Board of Church Location and Building based on preliminary facility improvements plans;

Therefore the Building Study Committee moves that the FUMC Church Conference meeting authorize the following:

1. Proceed with finalizing the design of facility improvement projects in accordance with the funding available:

- Construction of expanded lobby, new stairwell, new coatroom
- Installation of elevator and Webb Hall Lift
- Basement and 2nd floor renovations to accommodate elevator and utility room
- Classroom enhancements to facilitate sharing between Preschool and Sunday School
- Remodel restrooms on basement and 2nd floors for accessibility and create "family" restrooms
- Narthex improvements
- Chancel improvements
- Balcony Accessibility
- Exterior site work and grading

2. Proceed with "*Our Time To Build*" Capital Campaign to raise funds for proposed building projects: \$1.9 Million estimated for total site costs with \$150,000 initial expense needed for final drawings, permits and fund raising costs.

3. Authorize the formation of a Building Committee

4. Authorized the Building Committee to proceed with the tasks prescribed in the UMC Book of Discipline for building projects, including:

- The initial surveys and planning necessary for the eventual design and implementation of the projects in the approved building program
- The development of an implementation and financial plan based on the outcome of the authorized Capital Campaign
- Keep the Church Council and subsequent Church Conferences informed of the status of the plans and projects and of any changes deemed necessary or desirable for financial or technical reasons. An additional church conference will be scheduled to approve final plans.



Sunday, June 11, 2017

Dear Church Family,

The Church's Building Study Committee has been working now for quite a while on a building project that we believe improves our Church for several reasons.

First, we want to improve the Church space. For instance, we want to greatly expand the foyer for better fellowship. Although it is true that in our current foyer we cannot pass each other between services without saying hello, that is also because the size of the foyer forces us to step on each other's toes as we do so. A larger foyer would not only provide more comfortable passage, it would accomplish something much more important; namely, it would create a comfortable gathering space before and after service, and all during the week. The goal of this is, as with new church buildings, to create a warm, welcoming space that encourages people to gather.

With coffee service, bagels and donuts on Sunday and tables to gather around, folks who otherwise leave would be invited to gather, talk and share fellowship. The space also will be large enough for smaller functions and other gatherings during the week. Again, we want a warm, inviting area for gathering that just does not exist in our current Church home. Further, adding that space would create space above on the second floor. Additional space on the second floor can be used, for instance, to create a badly needed nursery area.

We also want to greatly improve Church accessibility. Currently, just getting into the Church can be almost impossible at times. Specifically, if the lift is not working out front, those that can not walk, can not get into the Church on their own and would need to be carried up stairs, exchanging some dignity in return for access. For those who have trouble ambulating, getting to Webb Hall also is a near impossibility. Think about the number of stairs that need to be traversed just to get to the basement, only to be faced with a few more to get down to Webb Hall. Likewise, one needs to travel the same number of stairs to get to the second floor.

We want everyone to feel welcome in the Church and to know that they can independently access the Church. We are not the worship home we want to be if our Church is not accessible to everyone. Therefore, the construction plan includes creating an entrance at grade in the new expanded foyer. It also provides for the installation of interior lifts within the Church ----- all to make the goal of accessibility a reality.

Finally, the project includes the installation of a fire suppression system throughout the building. This is something the fire department is requiring. Although costly, we have no choice but to comply and, moreover, it is a good idea. That is, as stewards of the Church, we all want to further ensure that anyone who comes into our worship home is safe.

We look forward to your thoughts and to working together to make this project a reality!

Your Building Committee: Jim Finger and Mike Sams (co-chairs); Mark Higgins, Marc Richards, Colleen Locke, Nelson Ball, Jim Niedzolkowski, Sheri Workman, Kristine Owen and Pastor John Taylor