

March 10, 2021

Dear Beloved Congregation,

We have some exceptionally good news to share! We are thrilled to announce that a Member has made an extraordinarily large gift of \$200,000 to the church. Of that gift, the donor specified \$50,000 for the Endowment Fund and the balance of \$150,000 for the Capital Fund to help pay for the Building Project.

We are profoundly grateful for this extraordinary gift, as indeed we are for the generosity of all 250+ contributors who made gifts ranging from \$10 to \$100,000 to the Building Project. We also appreciate the many volunteers who participated in shift-work projects to spruce up the old building and in fund-raising projects to “close the Gap.”

The impact of this singular gift on paying for the Building Project is significant. Assuming the balances on currently-recorded pledges to the Capital Fund are fulfilled as scheduled, the Gap will indeed be erased by June 2022! By the end of June 2021, when construction will be complete and final payment due to the contractor, we will have enough money in the Capital Fund to pay all but about \$35,000. A small bank loan, or other interim funding source, will cover that temporary shortfall and be paid down as remaining pledge balances are paid.

A secondary impact is that we can now begin to consider the list of additional capital improvements. You’ll recall, a wish list of improvements emerged when we sought congregational input in 2018. The list was sorted into work integral to the construction contract, and work that could be done as separate projects. The latter were deferred in order to ensure we could pay for the new building construction without leaving a burden of debt encumbering the church’s operating budget. Seeing that additional capital funding could be available sooner than expected, the Board Finance Committee has begun to compile a current list to bring to the congregation for input on priorities.

Our immediate attention has to be on the Annual Pledge Drive. Funding the operating budget of the church ensures compensation for our outstanding staff, the support of our ministries and programs, and the maintenance of our facility. Achieving that, the prospects for successful completion of the building project and even for delivering deferred improvements without a long-term debt are bright. For those who are able, fulfilling an outstanding pledge or making additional commitments will be key.

With deepest gratitude for everyone who is a part of the Community Church,

Heather O’Connor, President of the Board of Trustees  
Rev. Thom Belote, Minister