

Dear Beloved Congregants,

Below you will find a message from Steve Warshaw, President of the Board of Trustees, about the special board meeting that was held earlier this week as a follow-up to the congregational meeting on January 29. Before I pass along Steve's words, I wanted to make a few observations and comments.

I am heartened by the findings of the Financial Feasibility Study that show that we deeply treasure our ministries, programs, and staff. I was also excited by the enthusiasm that was present at the congregational meeting for moving ahead and by the overwhelming support that has been expressed for two aspects of this project: providing additional space to meet the needs of our Religious Education program for Children and Youth while simultaneously expanding our available space for adult programs and paying off our existing loan. At the same time I also recognize that there was a lot of confusion about the building options as well as some consternation about how the process has unfolded to date. I am convinced that for this building project to be successful we will need to all be on board together, so there is wisdom in taking time to make sure we do everything we need to do to have a successful capital campaign. There is also wisdom in focusing at this time on the elements of the project for which there is the most shared enthusiasm, while leaving the door open to adding to the project if funds are available. I believe in my heart that the end result will be a successful project, but we are going to have to move together for that to happen.

With Love,
Rev. Thom Belote
February 10, 2017

Here is Steve's message:

On Monday night, Feb 6th, in a special Board meeting, a resolution (please see below) on the timing and focus of the Capital Campaign passed unanimously. The vote was informed by the results of the Financial Feasibility Study, input at the Jan. 29th Congregational Meeting and additional feedback from congregation members after that meeting. In addition, the special Board meeting was attended by about 14 congregation members, who were able to ask questions and make comments that were also considered in the vote.

Motion for the Board of Trustees (passed unanimously 2/6/2017)

RESOLVED that,

The Board of Trustees will oversee a Capital Campaign to begin during 2017, after the Annual Pledge Drive, and to be completed in April 2018. The focus of this campaign is to fund expansion and renovation of the Jones Building to meet the space needs of children, youth and adult religious education as well as adult meeting space and to pay off the current church indebtedness when the note comes due in January 2019. When the Capital Campaign is completed, a plan based on these requirements and the funds raised, will be presented for a vote of approval by the Congregation. During the Capital Campaign the Building Project Task Forces will make every effort to inform and thoroughly engage the Members and Associates of the church in discussions about this project.

There was also a brief discussion of design features other than expansion and renovation of the Jones Building and paying off the current loan. If enough money is raised to achieve these two priority goals, the Board would work with the congregation to determine how best to apply any additional funds.

Steve Warshaw

President, Board of Trustees