

Board Update

Linkage with General Assembly Attendees and Capital Campaign Update From Janice Morris, Member, Board of Trustees

At our first official meeting in the new fiscal year, we welcomed new members **Chad Ohlandt**, **Kristen Patterson**, and **Andrea Ryon** to the Board of Trustees. We were also very appreciative to have **Bill Fogarty** attend the meeting to provide us with an update on the Capital Campaign and to have several General Assembly attendees join in a linkage conversation about their experiences.

As part of our linkage efforts to have deeper discussions with congregants about their personal stories, we asked GA attendees to come to the meeting and individual Board Members sat with individual attendees and said, "tell me a story about a transforming experience you had at GA." The Board practiced active listening by paying deep attention and then sharing what they had heard from the GA attendee with others. Through this process we went beyond just summarizing the overall GA activities to better understanding what the experience meant. By seeking out similar listening opportunities from other congregants in the future, the Board hopes that hearing your powerful stories will serve as policy guidance for us as we seek to connect, grow and serve as a faith community.

There has been a lot of talk about budget numbers lately so bear with us. We want to be sure the congregation is fully informed about the status of both the Capital Campaign and the annual operating budget as we go forward into the next year. Since the early 90's the church has been expanding its space as we continue to grow, including the recent addition which was completed in 2013, and as a result we have beautiful new spaces, as well as financial obligations that are outstanding and cumulative. Fulfilling and adding to our Capital Campaign commitments is separate from the recent cuts we were forced to make to have a balanced 2015-2016 annual operating budget, which we hope to address through increased pledges and careful monitoring of expenses.

On a positive note, the construction costs came in under budget. While the Capital Campaign pledges of our generous congregation over a five-year Capital Campaign period (2011 to June 2016) are expected to cover over 80% of constructions costs, the congregation always anticipated adding at least \$1 million to the mortgage. Current projections for increasing the mortgage range from \$1.2 million to \$1.5 million. The final amount will depend on the total donations (both fulfillment of existing campaign pledges and new gifts) that are made to the Capital Campaign between the present time and its conclusion in June 2016.

One goal has been to consolidate our loans by June 2017 into a refinanced package with a mortgage of approximately \$3 million. Once the consolidated mortgage is in place – which we could choose to do as early as June 2016 – all of its monthly payments will become part of the annual operating budget, which will then be adjusted accordingly.