

## Shawnee United Methodist Church Capital Campaign Q&A

### Growing Together ... Building in Faith

#### What will this project cost?

The projected cost of the project is \$685,000.

#### What is the projected construction schedule?

The work will start when 60% of the total funds are in hand. We cannot determine at this point when that will be on the calendar. The general contractor on the project will determine the schedule for the work. Some components of the work need to be done before others and some in conjunction with others to maximize efficiency and minimize cost. From the time we tell the contractor to commence, it will take approximately three months to coordinate the project and approximately six months after that to complete all the construction.

#### Have we selected a contractor?

The contractor has not yet been selected. The Trustees, serving as the Building Committee, have begun entertaining presentations from contractors.

#### How will church services be impacted during construction?

Although we will make sure everyone can get where they need to be when they need to be there, we will certainly have to entertain the idea of alternate paths through construction materials while actual construction is under way.

#### Why consider the roof part of the campaign instead of normal maintenance?

Because of the other construction components of the project, it would be cost effective to reroof the entire building once these additions and modifications are complete.

#### Does the roof leak over the foyer?

The roof leaks some during heavy or driving rains.

#### Will we put a new roof on the whole building?

Yes, a new roof will be put on the entire building.

#### Will we move the cooling equipment? Will we upgrade it?

The intention currently is to move the cooling equipment to the northernmost section of the parking lot to the north of the church. The Trustees have investigated alternative systems, and will do so again before the final decision is made.

#### Why do we need a playground?

Members of our congregation who support the outdoor play area expressed a number of reasons why they feel it is necessary. We have lots of children at our church who will benefit from a playground ... children in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, or whose parents are participating in church activities. The preschool program which resides in the church will also benefit from the play space and equipment.

#### Shawnee has 25 parks and we have a gym. Do we need a playground?

Yes, it sends a message that we value children.

### Can we get the playground and/or playground equipment donated?

Members of our congregation have expressed an interest in offering in-kind donations. Some of these are in the playground area ... excavation work, retaining wall stone work, equipment assembly, etc. We may be able to significantly reduce the dollar figure associated with the playground utilizing in-kind donations. Preschool Days, the preschool residing at SUMC, has also expressed an interest in assisting with fundraising efforts for the playground.

### Why are we building a playground just for the preschool?

The preschool is not the major motivating factor in building an outdoor playground. The preschool staff and ownership came to the Trustees a number of years ago requesting they investigate the possibility of adding a playground to our facility. Members of the congregation in general have also made that request. Certainly the preschool will benefit greatly from this addition, as would the church overall. Building an outdoor playground sends a message to our members and friends, as well as the community at large, that children and families are important to us. It is an outward display of our nurturing environment and our commitment to our children.

### Will we lose parking? How much? Who is planning to deal with the parking issues?

As the plan was originally drawn, we will lose up to 15 parking spaces on the north side of the church. This is an issue, as parking is at a premium at SUMC. However, Long Range Planning is working diligently to address this issue. We may also be able to revise the current plan slightly to regain some of these spaces.

### How are we expanding the narthex?

The narthex, or foyer area behind the sanctuary, will be opened up to add additional space to enhance traffic flow and accommodate fellowship. Wider, newly updated glass doors will replace the existing entry doors on the north side of the building. To bring in lots of light and create the illusion of more physical space, glass will be used between the sanctuary and narthex and between the parlor and narthex.

### Will the parlor be affected or eliminated for the foyer renovation?

No, the parlor will remain intact! Glass doors will be added to the east parlor wall to match the glass doors into the sanctuary.

### If we alter the foyer and kitchenette, how will we do receptions?

The enhancements to the "openness" of the foyer and the new entryway will create a space more conducive to receptions and other fellowship in that area. Although the kitchenette will not exist in its current format, a "kiosk" will be constructed with the necessary kitchen equipment to make it functional and attractive.

### What about the custodian's space?

The custodian's space by the kitchenette is not replaced in the plan for the enhanced foyer area. That is one issue we hope will be resolved in practice with little trouble!

### Can we publish the drawings of the project so everyone can see them?

Absolutely! Be watching for copies of the architects' rendering to land at your fingertips!

### Is this all or nothing?

The Trustees took input from the congregation and staff and packaged four projects (which complement one another and address multiple needs) into one logical project. Our congregational vote was on the package as a whole, so that is how it stands.

### Can we give only to the roof?

We would hope that if you do not support the project in its entirety, you would accept in good faith that this is the desire of the overall congregation and join others in supporting it anyway. However, if you feel very strongly about NOT supporting a particular component of the project, we will certainly apply your generous contribution to another aspect of the project!

### Are ideas that came up during the vote discussion being considered?

Absolutely! The project presented to the congregation by the Board of Trustees is yet to be defined with specific configurations and materials. All input from the vote discussion, the written surveys, the Feasibility Study personal interviews, and your current questions and concerns are being addressed -- and will continue to be addressed -- throughout the process.

### Does the Feasibility Study survey reflect just those who are in favor of the repairs?

All members and friends of SUMC were given an opportunity to participate in the Feasibility Study. While the majority of feedback we received was positive, some objections were presented as well. There are a number of reasons why individuals in our congregation have questions regarding some components of the project. Hopefully, through communication, we can all come together to support the project, perhaps making slight modification to the specifications to answer existing concerns.

### What if the project has cost overruns above the original budget?

A certain amount of overrun cost contingency was built into the original estimate of what the project cost will be. Every effort will be made to fall within those established parameters.

### Why two years for the Capital Campaign?

During the feasibility study, the congregation indicated a significantly higher ability to contribute if they had a two year period in which to do so.

### What payment methods will be available?

We do, of course, accept checks and cash! We are investigating automatic bank withdrawals (electronic funds transfers) and credit card payments as well.

### What happens if we raise more money than what we need for this project?

This would be a wonderful problem to deal with! First of all, we would use any funds collected in excess of the project cost to pay down, or pay off, the elevator and other church debt. Keep in mind that the boilers purchased two years ago were rolled into what was originally the elevator loan. The total balance of this existing debt is around \$140,000.

### What is the balance of the elevator debt?

The actual elevator debt is probably about \$105,000 of our total current debt.

### What is the contingency plan? What if we scrap or stop the project?

We have two options if it becomes apparent that the money needed for the project is not going to be raised. It would require input and a vote from the congregation. The congregation could either decide to contribute more or we could limit the scope of the project to fall within what we do collect.

### Will we have all the funds in before starting?

We will have 60% of the funds in hand before breaking ground on construction. We anticipate a large percentage of the money will be collected early, and will ask that people consider making their pledges and payments accordingly. By the time we have that sum in hand and begin construction, we will know what pledges are secured for the two year term and on what schedule the money will come in from those pledges. Keep in mind that typically construction for a campaign begins when about 33% of the funds are in. Because of your concerns regarding our history, or lack thereof, with capital campaigns, the finance committee committed to holding off until 60% is in hand.

### Please give guidelines for giving so people understand the monetary expectation. How much are we expected to give?

It is difficult to put a dollar figure on each person's contribution. In some Capital Campaigns, a general rule of thumb is given, perhaps giving 5% of an individual's income or assets. We know everyone has unique circumstances. Some will have the desire or ability to give more than others. We want everyone to participate in some way. If each person in our congregation gave over the two year campaign period at least what they contribute annually to the church, we would be close to raising the required capital funds!

### What about us fixed income seniors?

Again, we realize that everyone has unique circumstances. Stretch your spiritual self to the best of your ability and contribute what you feel comfortable contributing. You have ownership of this project and this church if you prayerfully consider your response and act accordingly.

### Will we do more fundraisers?

We had not originally intended to conduct fundraisers as part of the campaign. Based on feedback we've received, we could potentially organize a fundraiser so those who cannot otherwise contribute to their satisfaction can raise funds for the project.

### What will the effect be on our annual giving?

Typically conducting a Capital Campaign actually increases the amount of "regular" stewardship giving within a church. We anticipate that our annual giving will stay true to our current trends. The feedback we received during the Feasibility Study indicates that members of our congregation understand Capital Campaign giving is above and beyond their normal stewardship commitment.

### What is the amount of our annual operating budget?

This year's operating budget for the church is approximately \$600,000.

### What percent of our annual budget is raised in our stewardship campaign?

Approximately 75% has been raised for the last few years each. This figure does not include those who give but don't pledge, or the "cash" plate on Sunday mornings. Our cash flow has been very good.

### What will the effect of the down economy be on giving?

Surprisingly enough, our giving at SUMC has increased significantly through this tough economic time.

### How does this fit with long range planning?

This campaign addresses current needs and is essential to establish an attitude of "we can do it". The long range planning group is looking at where we need to be in 5, 10, or 20 years - parking, classroom space, youth space, office space and other challenges now and for the future.

**How many members do we have?**

SUMC has about 1,300 members, from over 550 families, with an average of 450 in worship on Sunday.

**When did we raise funds to build the church sanctuary?**

All indications show the sanctuary was constructed in or around 1954.

**Where would we be today if our forbearers did not conduct a capital campaign long ago?**

We are a spiritually alive church and it is our belief that to be spiritually and socially strong, we must continually move forward and grow. This does not always involve construction. We would not be able to serve our current congregation within our walls today if the building was structurally today as it was 50 years ago.

**How can we help others to understand the importance of sharing their own financial resources with the church?**

Each individual needs to feel comfortable with their own giving. This is a process that happens within each of us; it is a very personal decision. Someone stated rather eloquently at one of our Celebration Events that understanding stewardship means knowing that all we have is a gift from God.