

Building Project Update

There are a lot of questions circulating concerning the building project. Let me try to bring you up-to-date on where we are. I hope most of you have had the chance to look at the sketch of what the sanctuary might look like with the addition of the new pipe organ and new chancel area. The picture is in the narthex if you haven't seen it. There are three projects that we are trying to wed into one big project. The monies necessary for these projects are to be raised in different ways and that is why we haven't begun to move forward to date.

The first project is called **The Sanctuary Renovation Project**. We anticipate an overall cost of \$2.5 million. It includes the purchase and installation of a new Casavant pipe organ (\$800,000) with a life-span of 200 years or more. This project also includes the restoration of our entire sanctuary including the installation of a new HVAC system (current system installed 1954), floors, ceilings, lighting, carpeting, sound and a new chancel area. I believe it is visually stunning and we will be able to re-use much, if not all, of what we currently have. We will not be changing the position of the chancel. It will remain in exactly the same place as it is now. The money for this project is being raised by individuals and friends

who would like to see us purchase and install a new pipe organ as well as renovate the sanctuary's infrastructure. This is why we are still waiting to begin. The funding for this project **will not** be raised through a capital campaign. It was the purpose of this committee to raise the money privately and not ask the entire congregation to foot this bill. Therefore, until the entire amount can be raised, we cannot move forward with this phase of the **Project**. Once we have secured the funding for this project we anticipate being out of the sanctuary for 18-22 months. During that time, we will revamp our current worship schedule so that the Fellowship Hall can accommodate all three worship services. (One note of caution: Our current organ is broken, outdated and needs to be replaced. The repairman has been here this week and cannot find many of the parts needed to keep it running. It will cost us roughly \$300,000 to replace this organ with a similar one with a life span of roughly 25 years. The pipe organ for \$800,000 has a life span of over 200 years. Obviously, if you do the math, we will have to replace a digital organ many times over before we ever get the benefit we would receive from purchasing the pipe organ. If we choose to replace our current instrument with a digital organ, the cost to do so along with the cost of a new HVAC system for the sanctuary will have to be rolled into **The Building Infrastructure Project.**)

The second project is called **The Building Infrastructure Project**. We anticipate an overall cost of \$1 million and this will require a Capital Funds Campaign of pledges from the entire congregation to be collected over a three-year period. This project's purpose is to shore up our facilities' entire infrastructure that includes: the installation of energy efficient windows throughout the building, elevator, chairlift, moisture and mold removal, lighting upgrades throughout, painting and historic preservation of specific areas, a new computer and phone system, continued restoration on stain glass windows, and continued HVAC system upgrades. This project has to happen and it needs to begin. We will soon be presenting this **Project** to you and then we will begin the Capital Funds Campaign needed to fix our buildings. I had hoped we would have secured all of the monies necessary to do all of the programs at the same time. But, while we can wait for the first, we can no longer wait to fix our buildings. (One note of caution: If we choose not to purchase a new pipe organ, then the cost of replacing our current organ will fall under this **Project** thus raising our cost to \$1.3 million. Also, the folks hoping to raise the money for the pipe organ will take care of the costs of the sanctuary's new HVAC system. Again, if we choose not to purchase a new pipe organ, the cost of replacing the sanctuary HVAC

system will fall under this **Project** as well, thus raising its cost to \$1.8 million.)

The third project is **The Resurrecting the Steeple Project**. We anticipate a cost of roughly \$350,000. We are hopeful that there will be an overage from the above two projects that will let us resurrect the grand steeple of St. Paul UMC. Many individuals are already giving to this part of the project in the hopes that this can be accomplished. We are seeking to rebuild the steeple as closely to the original one as we can. We hope to have an architectural rendering for you as soon as possible so that we can begin to envision what everything will look like from floor to steeple. I know this is an enormous amount of information. In all honesty, I have tried to be as brief as possible in explaining the multi-faceted and complex situation we face as we seek to continue moving forward in ministry here at St. Paul. Obviously, you can contribute to any or all projects. Let me reiterate that we are only going to solicit campaign funds for the **Infrastructure Project**. There are many of us in this church who will have the opportunity to give in many ways while others of us may only be able to give in one way. What is important is that we see the entire project as a church-wide way of full participation and most importantly to make

disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by making sure we have the facilities to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ. As always, I am open to your thoughts and/or questions.

Grace and Peace, Rev. James H. Harry