

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Pertaining to Proposed Capital Campaign Projects**

#### **What does Phase I and Phase II mean?**

Because of the large costs associated with the total combined projects, it was recommended that we break them down into two phases for the best chance of achieving our goals. The focus of Phase I is “restoring our facility for ministry”. This will include chancel renovations and replacement of the organ. The focus of Phase II will be “expanding our facility for ministry”. This will involve building additional space for various ministries.

#### **What is involved with chancel renovations?**

The first two rows of pews plus the chancel railing will be removed in order to increase the staging area, resulting in greater usefulness and flexibility. An access ramp to the staging area will be built on the west side. The existing archway would essentially be elevated, improving the acoustics of the chancel area as well as the sightlines to our magnificent front stained glass window. The small room on the west side now being used primarily for storage will be opened up to extend the pipe chamber which is currently limited to the space above this room. The pipe chamber facades facing the congregation will be enlarged to enhance organ acoustics.

#### **Will the renovated chancel area be accessible?**

One of the most important improvements will be a ramp on the west side of the stage which will make the chancel area completely accessible for people with disabilities and the elderly.

#### **What will the organ cost?**

Responding to the cost concerns expressed at the January conference, the organ committee requested a new, lower cost design from the organ builder. The new proposed design and specification will cost \$700,000.

### **Have you considered other options?**

Other options were explored, including refurbishing a quality used instrument, and considering proposals from other organ builders. The organ committee traveled many miles to hear and evaluate representative work of these options. The committee returned to this builder because of the beauty and quality of their representative work. This instrument is the best we can offer God in the space that we have. We can read several examples of Biblical instances where the people gave the best they could for God (Exodus 34:26: The best of the first fruits of your ground you shall bring to the house of the LORD your God; 1 Samuel 15:15: ...for the people spared the best of the sheep and the cattle, to sacrifice to the LORD your God...). It is the committee's position that the congregation of First UMC would choose to do the best that they possible could in order to glorify God. We believe that the new \$700,000 proposal challenges the congregation with the opportunity to do their best.

### **Will we be able to hold all three worship services in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings?**

With the added flexibility from the renovation of the chancel area, it will be easier to have all three services in the sanctuary on a Sunday morning. However, council continues to support creation of a dedicated Sunday school hour which precludes this from being a permanent option.

### **Will the addition to the building be for the use of Celebration services only?**

It is the vision of Church Council and Future Directions Group that the new space will be a Multi-Function space usable by many groups for many purposes. It could be used for concerts, dinners, youth events, VBS, music camp, etc. This space could very well end up being the most used space within the church.

Such space would allow for growth in our church ministries & availability for community involvement. The new facility would really serve as a Mission Center for our many activities.

### **How much has the consultation services with Funk and Sons cost?**

Funk has provided their service free of charge to this point.