

## Harmony Capital Investment Committee Message

1-12-12

**The foundation of our message;**

### Mission

- **People who love God serving people who God loves.**

### Vision

- **Expand Harmony's family by growing our faith in Christ, increasing our commitment and reach in mission and providing a Spirit-filled worship for all ages.**

### Overarching principles applied as the CIC proceeded;

- **Study existing facilities to determine capacity and capability shortfalls to meet the church's vision, mission and objectives for the future**
- **Articulate various ways to fulfill any shortfalls found**
- **Create a plan for consideration by decision makers of the congregation and the United Methodist Church (UMC)**
- **Communicate that proposed plan to the appropriate congregation, decision makers for comment and feedback.**
- **Build consensus and communicate often with all stakeholders as we proceed from step to step from planning to completion of any work approved**
- **Use feedback extensively in improving the plan that is eventually accepted and supported by the congregation and the UMC**
- **Preserve the heritage of Harmony UMC including the architectural aspects of the current historic church building.**

## **Process to be Followed According to the UMC**

There is a defined process in the UMC as directed by the Discipline and the church leadership we must follow as we deliberate on what Harmony wants to do in regard to facilities investments. The outline of those steps is as follows:

- **Study Committee (CIC) tasks**
  - Present information on the CIC work to date and future plans to the congregation
  - Present CIC work to date to Church Council and request their approval to move forward in the Study Phase and dedicate up to \$40,000 from the matching fund for this phase
  - Select a professional planner (A/E) to assist with planning ;
    - Focus group meetings with Congregation to
      - Determine desired outcomes
      - Identify key questions
      - Elicit recommendations
- **CIC develops a report to be presented to;**
  - Church Council
  - District Superintendent
  - District building Committee
- **Report will address the following findings;**
  - Analyze Church and Community
  - Project potential membership
  - Write up church's program of ministry
  - Accessibility plan
- **Report will include;**
  - Recommendations on solutions to shortfalls of facilities
  - Renderings of possible facilities improvements
- **Secure authorization of the HUMC Charge Conference**
  - Charge conference appoints a Building Committee
- **Building Committee selects (A/E) to help do design**
- **Building committee shall prepare a project plan that ;**
  - Utilizes findings of the Study Committee to define the project parameters
  - Develops preliminary plans
  - Secures an estimate of cost
  - Develops a financial plan to pay for the work
- **Building Committee shall submit to the District Board for preliminary approval and written consent by the District Superintendent;**
  - Statement of need
  - Preliminary plans
  - Preliminary cost estimate

- Preliminary financial plan
- Pastor calls a Charge Conference where the Building Committee shall present for majority approval;
  - Preliminary plans
  - Preliminary cost estimate
  - Preliminary financial plan
  - Building Committee's recommendation
- Secure Zoning decision from Hamilton
- Building Committee shall;
  - Develop detailed plans
  - Obtain a reliable cost estimate
  - Present the information to the District Superintendent and Charge Conference for approval
- Fund raising committee established
  - Fund raising consultant obtained
  - Fund raising commences
- Building Committee executes project when ½ funds raised
  - Hires contractor
  - Commence construction
  - Complete construction
- Dedication

## **Communications Plan**

### **Communications Infrastructure**

- Spokespersons
  - CIC Members
  - Pastor
- Messaging and feedback approaches
  - Developed talking points that are updated as the conversation develops over time
  - Sunday service updates -
    - Pastor and CIC Members and later Building Committee members
  - Website articles
    - - CIC members and staff
  - Presentations at various church venues with continuing updates as appropriate
    - Church council
    - UMW and UMM
    - Sunday School classes
    - Potluck suppers

- Small group (e.g. Bible studies, etc.)
- Prepared questions and answers
  - Published in bulletin, website, church newsletter, etc.

### **Audiences**

- Harmony UMC Congregation
- District Superintendent
- District Board of Church Location and Building
- Hamilton City Council, The Planning Commission and possibly the Zoning Appeals Board
- Citizens of Hamilton, VA

### **Message (s)**

- Facilities should be enabled in accomplishing what God expects of us individually and as a church.
- Our agreed upon vision, mission and goals call for us to examine critically whether we have adequate facilities to support the work of our church and then chose wisely as to the way ahead as a congregation.
- Our plan should represent the input and consensus of all stakeholders.
- Our facilities are an asset in our work and calling as a church so any changes or improvements should be carefully planned and considered.
- Investments in any church facilities must follow a definite process prescribed by the UMC and the UMC's approval must be obtained before any obligations can be incurred by Harmony UMC.
- This process will require several steps and significant time before it is complete.
- Throughout the process, the congregation will be knowledgeable of and involved in the development of any decisions that are made concerning any commitment for any changes to the church facilities.