

## Building Committee Report

2/20/09

The FUMC Building Committee continues to meet and plan. At this point in time, no land has been purchased or optioned. As shared at the November Charge Conference, the Methodist Book of Discipline guideline for purchasing land or building new facilities is a four-thirds principle. We will need at least one third cash on hand, one third in pledges, no more than one third from borrowing, and a mortgage payment that is no more than one third of the annual budget. Our committee believes, given the current economic conditions, that we should not borrow money for the land purchasing phase of our project. This was reiterated to the Church Council on Monday, February 16.

Thanks to the support from our congregation and despite the sour economy, our Building Fund continues to grow. In the mean time, our committee moves forward to explore available land, possible locations, and opportunities. We have also had significant discussions regarding the vision for this project and the impact of new facilities on the future of our church's work in our community/area.

We are excited about the potential of a "Christian Community" campus concept. The idea of sharing a site located somewhere in our north Marion area of growth with Christian-based non-profits, new church facilities, outdoor parks/gardens, indoor/outdoor recreation facilities, shared parking, and perhaps other entities such as Christian-based businesses or multigenerational housing would bring many benefits to our area and our church. Our committee continues to explore this with potential partners that could aid our effort in terms of philosophy, mission, and finance.

Cost sharing and mission sharing seems to make sense in this day and age. For example, new parking spaces are expensive at \$1200 - \$2000 per spot, depending on site conditions and specs. We know that adequate parking is important. If we could share that cost with a significant partner or partners that also share our mission of Christian community outreach we could lower our costs and aid our overall effort. This would be a win-win situation for our church and community.

Currently, our Building Fund is approaching \$100,000. This is not an insignificant amount but it represents just a start in terms of the scope of this major endeavor. Our finance and communications sub-committees have been developing plans to roll out a major fundraising campaign when we think the time is right. We are keeping the economy and individual member finances prayerfully in mind as we move forward.

Please let us know if you have thoughts or ideas that can aid in our effort. We do appreciate all of the positive support that you have given us. Our Building Committee members are: Brad A'Hearn, Tom Padley, Gene Gerber, Kay McGuire, Linda Kelly, Sean Poston, Dana Mortensen, Doug Martin, Lauren Noble, Al Beach, Susanne Haehlen, Linda Jenkins (secretary), Pastor Mike Morgan, and Jerry Van Dyke.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Van Dyke

Building Committee Chair

