

REVIEW OF MAKING ALL THINGS NEW: PHASE ONE CAMPAIGN



During Listening Sessions in November, there were questions about how the Making All Things New: Phase One Capital Campaign fit in with ongoing financial challenges to fund the annual budget as well as the new challenge of an elevator in need of repair.

So, let's review: during two months of an Awareness Campaign back in the fall of 2022 church members were made aware of several issues with our church building that the Property Team was very concerned about. The stained glass windows in the Sanctuary were their top priority. The windows were visibly shifting in their frames due to rotting wood in the sill supporting them. Other concerns discussed were the exterior doors to Fellowship Hall which leak when there is rain blowing from the south, a broken air conditioning unit for the upper narthex, the exterior of many windows in the newer addition are in need of attention, the wood siding in several sections of the building are in need of repair and we need to prepare for the roof to be replaced since it is closing in on its 25 year life expectancy.

The total cost for all of these projects was estimated to be between \$377,776 and \$421,908. This significant price tag was considered by all those who attended the Awareness Campaign meetings to be far too much for the congregation to take on at that time. The general opinion was that it would be better to take on smaller portions of the overall building needs, build momentum with success, until we had met the multiple challenges before us.

On May 21, 2023 the congregation voted to proceed with a financial campaign to raise \$32,000 to repair and maintain the stained glass windows in the Sanctuary. Campaign materials went out to our members and friends seeking one-time gifts or pledges toward the Making All Things New: Phase One campaign which would pay for the Property Team's top repair priority. Thanks to a generous, matching gift donation of \$5,000 and many smaller gifts and pledges the campaign was successful and the stained glass windows will be repaired in the spring/summer of 2024.

We used "Phase One" in our Making All Things New campaign title because we knew, even in May that there was much more work that needs to be done to keep our beautiful facility in good shape. We did not, of course, anticipate that in September we would be faced with a different, costly building issue - the elevator breaking down. The congregation voted to use a loan to pay for the repair of the elevator. This loan may be folded into the anticipated costs of a "Phase Two" portion of a proposed Making All Things New campaign in the future, but that will need to be voted on by the membership.

Many of our families have already made one-time donations to the Making All Things New: Phase One campaign. Individuals and families that made pledges are welcome to begin or continue making their donations to the campaign as they had indicated on their capital campaign pledge form. If you would like to be reminded or updated on the status of your donation, please email our Financial Administrator, Phil Stepanski at phil@portucc.org.