

LEARNING ABOUT THE PROPOSED CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



When the Conrad Schmit Studios of Milwaukee installed the beautiful, new stained-glass windows in the summer of 1971 they gave a detailed description and explanation for the large windows facing Webster Street. The window on the left depicts elements from creation. The center window focuses on the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The window on the right is filled with symbols of the final consummation when God’s Kingdom and the earthly kingdom are finally brought into unity and death itself is wiped away. As they described this last window the designers of the stained-glass quote Rev. 21:5, “Behold, I am making all things new.”



The Capital Campaign Planning Team is proposing a financial campaign called “Making All Things New”: Phase One to repair these beautiful windows. Our Property Team has been patiently explaining for the past few years that the windows around the Sanctuary are badly in need of repair. The large windows on Webster Street have begun to sink into the sill below them due to rotting wood, showing gaps between the stained-glass panels. A smaller window on the south side of the Sanctuary has “popped” out of its frame. Not directly visible on a Sunday morning, the exterior of many of the windows show peeling, cracking and wood that needs repair and replacing.

The Property Team has done their research and secured several proposals from different companies to make the necessary repairs. They are recommending that we pursue a proposal submitted from Staige Stained and Leaded Glass Restoration, LLC out of Onalaska, WI. Their quote, adjusted for 2024 is: Carpentry and Repairs: \$18,515; Stained Glass Repair: \$5,145; Exterior Arches Repair: \$2,339; north closet Window Repair: \$904; north closet storm windows; \$275; Property Team recommended contingency to cover “surprises” \$4,822 for a total of \$32,000. Our hope is that the church will vote to proceed with “Making All Things New” phase one at our Spring Congregational Meeting on May 21. If the church wants to move forward, we would launch a pledge campaign on June 5.

(continued on next page)

"MAKING ALL THINGS NEW" continued...

The goal would be to receive a minimum of \$32,000 in pledges. Pledges will be asked to be made by July 16 and can be paid in one-time gifts or paid over the next 12 months (August 2023 to July 2024) in monthly or quarterly payments.



Central "Christ" window showing gaps due to lower glass panel sinking into the sill below.



Looking through the glass of central "Christ" window - woodwork in need of repair & replacement.

Many of you may have already noticed that the campaign has "phase one" in the title. Unfortunately, the repair of the stained-glass windows is not the only the pressing need of the church building. Those who attended an Awareness Campaign meeting will remember a "five-year plan" that stretched out to 2028 with items we know are on the horizon. Part of our Capital Campaign Planning Team's discernment has been the decision to take care of the most immediate needs now, but to be prepared to act over the next several years as we gradually "Make All Things New"!

The team will be available to answer questions and discuss the "Making All Things New" campaign further when we gather for our Spring Congregational Meeting on May 21. Or you may reach out to any of their members: Bill, Bond, Carolyn Heatwole, Jeanne Mantsch, Joe Mueller, Karen Oftedahl, Ray Shupe, and Pastor Scott if you have questions.



THIS MONTH'S WINDOW INTO OUR PAST - HONORING OUR "FOREMOTHERS"

Our May installment honoring our 125th anniversary highlights women in our church. The information was gleaned from our church historical collection.

Of the 27 founding members in 1898, 20 were women. Reflecting the time and the legalities of the day, it was the seven men who were elected to the seven offices at the organizational meeting. The women were voting members of the congregation, not a given in every church community of the day. While the men were seeing to the legalities of incorporation, securing pastoral leadership, and seeking recognition as a member church by the regional Congregational Church governance, the women had their own allied agenda.

On Wednesday afternoon, April 13, 1898, (just three days after our congregation's organizational meeting) 17 women gathered at the home of Mrs. A.A. Farmer for the initial meeting of the Women's Auxiliary of the Congregational Church. *(continued...)*