



An Open Letter to the Congregation:

September 30, 2018

After several months of deliberation, your Church Leadership Council on August 27 adopted the above timeline to move us forward in addressing the significant structural issues with our Sanctuary facility (identified in detail in early 2015).

The Board of Trustees sought initially to devise a plan simply to repair the facility. A “Building Task Force” then went on to explore a series of building options alternative to that. The Church Leadership Council determined earlier this year, however, that because of the projected costs, our *Book of Discipline* requires that any of these plans be subject to the requirements for a full-fledged Building Program (§ 2544). This requires that we begin with the formation of what we are calling our “Discovery Team”, who are tasked with re-envisioning and outlining our principal ministry strategies and trajectories, which are then, in turn, to inform a subsequent Building Committee’s work. The goal of these Disciplinary requirements is to try to ensure that “form follows function” or, i.e., that whatever building work we do facilitates – rather than in any way limits or constrains – our ministry.

Please understand that these dates could shift a little, this way or that, as the process unfolds. All along the way the most important role each member and friend of St. Matthew can play is to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thes. 5:17) for your leadership, and then to “encourage one another and build up each other” (1 Thes. 5:11) about our plan to move forward!

Christina Grant, Chair, Church Leadership Council

Randy Smith, Pastor