

Central United Methodist Church Capital Campaign for the Family Life Center New Construction & Renovation

Unanimous Approval!

Sunday, April 6, Rob Blackburn convened the Church Conference to a nearly-packed Fellowship Hall. Scott Pritchard, Administrative Board Chair, welcomed everyone and thanked the members of the various committees for their time and effort given to the long process of planning for the future of Central Methodist Church. Karen Ballard, Prayer Committee Co-chair, offered the opening prayer.

Rob gave the history on the listening/planning/prioritizing for Central church's needs. He provided insights on our growth and vision for Central's future and the reasons for a campaign, citing examples of how the new facilities and renovations will allow us to 'widen the circle' of Central's family within the church and the downtown community of Asheville.

Ron Payne, Building Committee Co-chair thanked the committee members for their years of service and the Camille-Alberice architecture team for bringing forth a dynamic presentation that exemplifies all the thoughts, ideas, and visions that the Central church family has shared in cottage and town meetings. Ron announced the Building Committee's endorsement of the schematics and renderings for the new Family Life Center, parking structure and existing building renovations being brought to the congregation at this conference. Peter Alberice made the **PowerPoint presentation** illustrating the following:

- ∞ 3 levels of covered parking
- ∞ Elevator system that addresses our need for accessibility throughout every level of parking and each floor of the new and existing buildings
- ∞ Light-filled, welcome atrium with entries at both the back and the Church Street sides of Central
- ∞ Family Life Center for Contemporary Worship, receptions, community outreach, athletic events, music and drama programs
- ∞ New kitchen
- ∞ Renovations/reconfiguration of the existing kitchen and Fellowship Hall into meeting spaces/classrooms
- ∞ New and expanded library with exterior access to the Memorial Garden
- ∞ Men's & Women's restrooms, fully accessible and adjacent to our Sanctuary

Also presented was a 3-dimensional model of Central Church and Family Life Center. The model and PowerPoint presentation will be on display in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday in April and May.

Chip Powell, Chair of Finance shared that budgetary planning has been ongoing for the past few years in preparation for operational expenses associated with the building/renovation project. Finance is also working closely with the Capital Campaign to assist with meeting their goals.

Dianna Goodman and Steve Sloan, spoke of the history of Central's church family, namely those generations before us who had the vision and commitment to grow this church, thereby creating legacies to benefit and assist future generations in the church and the community of Asheville. They spoke of the opportunities for use of the Family Life Center and how these will allow us to carry out our Mission for Widening the Circle of Christianity. They presented our goal of \$14.5 million and the timeline for the Campaign. They stated their confidence in the ability of the Central church family to achieve the Campaign goals based on the overwhelming support demonstrated by the number of people who have agreed to chair or be on Campaign committees, and by the financial commitments already pledged for the Campaign. Showing the depth of support, all Building Committee members, Capital Campaign chairs, and volunteers in attendance were asked to stand and be recognized.

After a period of questions and answers, Scott Pritchard asked the church members present to vote on the following:

1. Does the congregation accept and approve the plans for the new building design and existing building renovation project?
2. Does the congregation authorize the Capital Campaign to ask for pledges to support the building project?

Following accepted Robert's Rules of Order, motions were made, seconded, and unanimously accepted. Scott thanked the members of Central for attending this most important Church Conference.

Rob Blackburn concluded the conference with a prayer then asked each person present to be advocates for this campaign, to pray for success, and to consider their own well-planned gift to make this dream a reality with God's blessings.