

## A Place for All Construction Project Update

### Good News!

Our goal for our construction project has been to be able to complete all the phases of the project—outlined in the Pledge Campaign Blue Brochure—within our target budget of \$1.2 million. We have met with our construction manager, Lakewood Construction Company, and Cornerstone Architects and now have a plan to be able to achieve our goal.

They have advised us that the current bidding environment is very challenging. Most subcontractors have their project schedules full and either are not interested in bidding at all or their prices are very high. Lakewood has recommended that we bid the project now but for a mid-winter start rather than a November 1 start. While there is no guarantee, they believe that by bidding for a later start construction bids will be lower. That alone, however, will not be enough to hit our target so they (with support from Cornerstone Architects) have suggested a couple of modifications to the current construction/remodeling plans that will reduce the cost of the project. By taking these two steps, they believe that it will be possible for us to be able to complete all phases of our project (outlined in the Blue Pledge Brochure) for our target of \$1.2 million.

In reality there are a number of advantages for this approach:

- Access to the main (north) entrance to the church will not be hindered during the winter months.
- A significant portion of the work will be done in the summer months which will minimize impact on church programming.
- Lakewood's costs of providing a heated environment for the winter construction period will be reduced.
- We have the opportunity to generate some interest revenue from the pledge income we have received.
- The code enforcement department for the City of Holland is backed up and the permit necessary to begin our project will not support an early November start date.
- There are a couple of design details that have not yet been resolved and the delay would allow adequate time to resolve those items.

The majority of the changes in the construction project itself will not be evident to most congregation members—they include, for example, substituting less expensive (but attractive and serviceable) materials in parts of the project. The noticeable change will be using a ramp in the sanctuary to provide ease of access to the chancel for choir members, church service participants, etc. By doing this we can eliminate the previously planned lift that was to be located in the narthex to provide handicap access to the chancel. This will create a more spacious and attractive narthex, improve traffic flow in accessing the elevator and make a significant reduction in the project cost.

Please be clear that the “A Place for All Building Design Committee” is excited about these changes as they will help us achieve our goal of completing all phases of the project within the budget limits established by Session.

We initiated the project on Sunday, October 14 with a ceremonial “groundbreaking” ceremony during both worship services. Representatives of Lakewood Construction and Cornerstone Architects participated.

We look forward to moving forward on our project with a combination of Faith and Flexibility.

A Place for All Building Design Committee

Larry Grinwis, Jon Kreple, Sandy Peterson, Larry Briggance, Bill Haines, Chris Olney, Linda Knieriemen