

Building Renovation Moves Forward!!

Last Sunday, March 17th, the congregation approved a motion that will allow the Building Committee to apply for the MIF loan to move forward with the building renovation. The motion also designated the Building Committee chair, Kerrie Puglia (or her designee) and Congregation Council President, Betsy Canino (or her designee) to disperse these funds to accomplish the project.

This is the culmination of 8 years of work spearheaded by John Pietrella. Though the bid for the work was higher than anticipated it was thought to be a fair bid and will accomplish many of the goals we have in making the improvements.

What we will gain:

- Removal of all asbestos from the educational wing
- New flooring throughout
- A new heating and cooling system that will be much more energy efficient and allow us to heat our building adequately in the winter and provide relief as needed with air conditioning in the warmer months.
- Repointing or repair of grout in the bricks where needed
- New energy efficient windows throughout
- Review and improvement of our fire alarm system as needed
- Replacement or repair of our exterior doors as needed
- Repair or replacement of ceilings
- All spaces will be painted
- Reconfiguration of our classroom/meeting spaces to allow 7 separate meeting spaces or the ability to open the spaces up to make larger meeting spaces as needed.
- The installation of a storage trailer along the south end of the building to increase storage and decrease the amount of space needed for storage in the building (allowing more 'people' space)

Unfortunately, the cost of the work is high and we are not afforded the ability to add storage cabinetry or other millwork in the interior. This lifts the challenge to ourselves as members to be builders and salvagers! We will need to let our creative selves be nourished to find solutions to 'outfit' the new, clean and safe space to meet our needs. I am confident we can do this!

Thank you to all of the members of the Building Committee and the Finance Committee for tireless hours (sometimes freezing in our poorly heated spaces) that allowed this work to bear

fruit. We are blessed to have so many talented and gifted members who are generous with their time and resources!

Congratulations, Immanuel! Now let's pack up!

In gratitude, Betsy Canino