

# Frequently Asked Questions



## How will the new addition be used?

The new addition will be used to expand and maintain our current ministries and offer new outreach ministry opportunities. The contemporary service will move into this addition, thus freeing Wesley Hall for additional fellowship opportunities that have been identified, as a great need. Additionally, this addition will be equipped for a sports ministry, which would be a great draw for our church not only from a youth perspective, but also for families. The addition will also be used for the youth, especially during the fifth quarter and the other events that are being planned by our Youth Pastor.

## How can I help?

You can give your “prayers” to the campaign. The prayer support of our church family will determine the success of our campaign. Everyone is asked to:

- Pray for our campaign leaders and workers, and for our church, as we work together to achieve God’s vision for our church
- Make a sacrificial gift to the campaign. Seek the will of the Lord and prayerfully consider the gift He would have you make

## How much should I give?

Each person should pray about this and must decide what is the Lord’s will for his or her gift.

## Are there any guidelines for making my gift?

You may consider the following guidelines:

- First, your commitment should be “over and beyond” what you normally give to the church. Our church will need to continue to meet its operating budget from regular offerings.
- Consider the lifestyle changes you can make in order to free up funds to give.
- Take a close look at your assets - do you have appreciated stocks, bonds, personal or real property you can give?

- Your gift should be a sacrificial gift. We will not reach our goal by people giving from their “surplus” income. Our goal will be reached only as we make lifestyle changes that will free up money to give.

### **How are we going to handle the parking situation?**

As we all know, there is now a 120 car covered parking garage located in the rear of our building. This was paid for the city of Rocky River. That means that for the next fifteen years, anyone in the city is able to use the lot free of charge. We are working with the architects to minimize the number of parking spaces that are lost with the addition.

The Rocky River City Master Plan calls for shared parking whenever feasible. Rocky River doesn't want additional blacktop when there can be green space. The Mayor has voiced enthusiasm for shared parking for the church.

### **Will this addition create a mega church?**

Even though our worship attendance has grown it has been slow and steady. There is no indication that in a static population environment with no room for new building booms that our growth will be anything but steady. We are a regional church that draws its members from several surrounding communities but none of those show explosive growth that would add hundreds to our membership rolls.

In an informal survey of similar sized churches, our per member square footage would be comparable to other large churches in our East Ohio Conference.

### **Will there be a cornerstone that will include information about the church and the hopes and plans for the new space?**

That is yet to be determined, but more than likely such a vessel will be included.

### **Clearly, an expanded facility will draw new people, but what will the multi-purpose space be used for?**

- A major use will be for all-church fellowship events which have been lacking the past several years.
- The addition of a youth worship experience led by youth for the youth in the community, on other than Sunday mornings
- A sports ministry that will include intramural sports in volleyball and basketball for church and community persons
- Our youth plan to use the new facility and/or Wesley Hall for their meetings and events and use the Youth Room for the casual meeting area. There is a proposal being prepared for submission to the Trustees for renovation of the Youth Room.

- The contemporary worship service has grown to an average of approximately 120 per Sunday. By the time we reach 150, we will have outgrown Wesley Hall. We estimate that by the time we enter the new facility, we will be in the range of 200 per Sunday. Contemporary worship is a constantly evolving process. Expect that more and more persons will desire the kind of service it provides. That has been proven again and again at other churches on the West Side.
- We strive to make each of our services the best possible opportunity we can for persons to have an encounter with Christ. We sometimes forget that over the past eight years we have spent several hundred thousand dollars on the Sanctuary renovations, including organ restoration being completed now for \$120,000. We do not want to ignore any aspect of our worship ministry.
- We have had a desire for several years to begin an after-school ministry for middle school youth. The new facility would allow flexibility in its uses. Volunteers and existing staff would staff this ministry.
- Our current philosophy is that non-profit groups doing community good are able to use our building if it doesn't hinder our ministry. Examples would include Alcoholics Anonymous, artist groups, community service groups, including some offering classes taught for those court appointed to attend, and others. We receive generous donations from several of those groups, but we make no charges for their being in the building.
- Rentals probably will not be something we would consider for a couple of reasons: when outside groups come into the facility, they usually are the ones who have the least concern of its care; we won't be a place for wedding receptions because we don't allow alcohol to be served in the building. Occasionally we have brides who ask about a reception here, but as soon as they discover the church's policy on alcohol, they look elsewhere.
- The fellowship opportunities that will present themselves with the new facility are now only dreams, but will quickly become reality when the building becomes a reality. We got a taste of what a wonderful place this could be with the All Church Family Gathering held in a similar type facility on Saturday, March 31, at St. Christopher's.
- There is and will continue to be an evolving schedule of uses for the multi-purpose portion of this project that have yet to be explored. Whenever you have a facility that is new and of the size and versatility we project, many groups in the community and in our family of ministries will be finding new and significant uses that will enhance our ministry to this church and community.
- There are no plans for any expanded staff as a result of this project, with the possible exception of some additional custodial services, once the need is determined.
- Several churches in our geographical area have, are, or are planning to expand their facilities, and virtually all are including a similar concept in design as we have proposed. Most of you have experienced St. Christopher's space; Lakewood

Presbyterian is currently under construction with a similar project; Bethany English Lutheran Church on Triskett Road completed such a space a few years ago and attributes it to keeping the church a vital part of its community. As you look west, most all the new church construction now begins with this type of use, or it is included in the overall planning.

- The multi-purpose room is only one portion of this project; it represents slightly less than half of the space that will be constructed or renovated. Although this component will allow for contemporary worship in a modern, air-conditioned room on Sunday mornings, for a service that represents a major growth area for us, that is by far only a small portion of its anticipated use.

### **How will we be able to pay for such an addition?**

The current capital campaign is underway to seek pledges from our church family that will underwrite the major portion of the costs of this project. The pledge period is for three years. In the packet of information you received, there is an outline showing how a gift can be pledged over three years.

If the project is adequately funded by pledges over the three year period, once construction is completed, the church will be required to seek financing to cover the project costs until the pledges are paid in full. The budget in place for this project anticipates the financing costs and allows for shrinkage in pledge amounts. (Our congregation pays its pledges at a rate of over 97%.) The church currently carries no indebtedness and we have been assured by those who regularly work in the financial arena, that we would not have any difficulty in securing such financing. Once the capital campaign is completed and we have concrete numbers to use, the financing will be put in place.

When completed, this new construction will be the most efficient space we will occupy. The maintenance costs are projected to be minimal due to use of new and improved materials. The energy costs will be in the area of \$10,500 per year, which is outstanding for this size space and with an operating budget for the church of \$800,000, it is very manageable.

### **What about the parking, gathering area and café that were talked about, how will this area be used?**

- Many of the above referenced comments will also apply to the use of this space. For expanded capacity, the gathering area will be constructed so that it can be opened up to the multi-purpose room.
- Security is an issue in a building this size and having a central entrance that can be controlled will enhance safety for all concerned.

- The new space will require the consumption of about 25 to 30 existing parking spaces. The recent completion of the city parking garage, adjacent to our parking lot, affords us more than ample spaces.
- Proposed is a section close to the entrance for “Senior Parking” that would be reserved for senior members of our congregation. This would not be the same as handicapped spaces and would make access to the building as easy as possible.
- The proposed reuse of existing space to create a café environment will be open to the gathering area and will allow for significant interaction of the congregation on a more informal basis. This will be ideal for “Coffee Hour” following worship or for a casual meeting space for small groups. The “Coffee Hour” will continue to be staffed by volunteer groups and various families as in the past and self-serve equipment will be installed in a vending mode to accommodate casual use.
- All the space will be handicapped accessible including the new restrooms planned near the entry.
- These additional areas are just as important to the future of our church to create opportunities for interaction of church members for fellowship and hospitality. New persons coming into our new facility will be better cared for, have better signage and a more welcoming atmosphere.

**I understand several other areas of the existing building will be renovated or updated. What will this consist of and how much will it cost?**

Our nursery area will be expanded to accommodate the plethora of new births our congregation is experiencing. This is a must to get new families to join and maintain membership in a church.

Rooms 209/210 across from the Parlor will be reconfigured so they can provide one large space or three smaller rooms.

Rooms 101/102 will also be reconfigured for use in the elementary area.

The Victory Goal of \$2,500,000 includes all construction and renovation costs.

**Will this project alter or affect the current sanctuary?**

No changes are anticipated or planned with this project to make any changes in our beautiful sanctuary. We are committed to the continual maintenance and restoration to this critical component of our worship experience.

**Dr. Martin, how do you view this project in sight of the overall ministry of our church and in view of the United Methodist Church in this country?**

“I would like to address the probability of success issue. We do not have every plan on paper for how the new space would be used. I am certain of a few things as I observe the

church at large and the United Methodist Church across the country. I attend the Large Church Gathering of United Methodists each year and am familiar with many of these churches and the denominational statistics as well as religious studies of the Christian church in general. Here is what I know: 75% of all churches in this country are either dying or are dead. This is a statistical reality. RRUMC is the fourth largest church in our conference out of 850 churches. We are already a large church. Is there any danger of being a mega church? No! there are over 1,000 churches in this country that average over 2,000 at church on Sunday. We have had slow and steady growth over the last 12 years in our attendance, going from 335 a Sunday to our present 441 average. Most growth in churches is in the contemporary worship area. It would be foolish for us not to meet needs of an ever-growing segment of our culture by not offering a contemporary service. I believe one of the strengths of our church is the fact that we offer three different times and approaches for worship. I also know this – I believe this decision, and consequently building or not building, will set the tone for the congregation for the next forty years. To build will signify that we want to meet the needs of our communities. It is crucial that we follow Christ into the future with this project.”