

It Was a VERY Special Meeting

Thank you to everyone who participated on June 2 when we held a Special Meeting to vote on next steps for the proposed building project – a plan that will address our accessibility commitments and long term space requirements by demolishing the current Religious Education wing and constructing a larger replacement structure on and to the north of its current foundation. The large turnout of members, as well as the comments and questions, was an indication of how important a decision this is for our congregation and its future.

Before the vote, members of the Design Task Force and Board of Trustees provided a recap of the history and steps that brought us to this point, reported findings from the financial feasibility study, and reviewed the projected budget and financing options. After much discussion, Parish members voted to support the plan proposed by the Design Task Force.

Additionally, we voted to retain Torrey Architecture, Windover Construction, and other necessary consultants to work with a Building Task Force. Their job will be to convert the existing schematic design plans into construction documents that will enable us to establish a Guaranteed Maximum Price contract with Windover Construction. Funding for these services, up to \$200,000, has already been identified.

A third article, to launch a capital campaign to support the project, was also approved. Tri-chairs for that group have been named – Peter Calkins, Dan Gerron, and Fred Glore. With a target project budget of \$2.1 million, the group will begin solicitation over the summer and follow with an active campaign this fall. Their goal is to raise a minimum of \$1.5 million.

A final vote to proceed with the project will occur in early January 2014 when we will be able to review progress on the Capital Campaign and the construction contract. Target period for the actual construction activity is spring-September 2014.

For over 15 years, we have been engaged in the conversation about improving our physical plant to better serve our mission and embody our vision. This is an exciting time for our congregation – one that will enhance the way we live our mission for decades to come. Again – *thank you all!*