



Moving Forward Faithfully Together

May 4, 2021

Dear Mountain Shadows Family and Friends,

We hope this letter finds you well. We are writing to provide you with a church building project update in advance of our presentation to the congregation at the Town Hall Gathering via Zoom following worship on Sunday, May 16, 2021.

It is helpful to recall our objectives for the building project:

- Modify the chancel to improve safety and accommodate the music ministry
- Add a large-group meeting space for fellowship, ministries and outreach
- Improve the accessibility (both hearing and physical) of church facilities
- Partner with IMPACT of Southern Arizona to serve neighbors
- Fulfill Mountain Shadows' mission: Centered in Christ and Caring for Community

Based on input from the congregation since the project was announced in late 2019, we added a commercial kitchen to the plans of the new building. We also included transforming the existing kitchen in the sanctuary building into a narthex area. In the course of the project design, we became aware of additional building code requirements related to the construction of a new building. We are required by law to expand the parking lot and have restrooms that meet current accessibility standards.

The New Building Design Team modified and completed the building design plans developed by our architect and an interior design consultant. We solicited bids from five contractors for the new building construction, completed a thorough review of the bids, evaluated and updated cost estimates, and factored in the costs for new hearing/sound equipment. Here are the results:

Summary of Updated Project Costs for the Sanctuary and New Building

	Projected Project Cost/2020	Updated Project Cost/2021
Sanctuary Remodel	\$ 150,000	\$ 157,000
New Building	670,000	780,000
Restroom Remodel		117,000
Landscaping	15,000	20,000
Office Upgrades	15,000	Included in restroom
Contingency	30,000	30,000
Total	\$ 880,000	\$ 1,104,000

Capital Campaign Status

The congregation responded to the three-year *Building Faithfully* capital campaign with pledges of \$251,000. In the midst of a pandemic, our congregation has come forward with generous offerings. Through March 31, 2021, the end of the first year of our three-year campaign, we have received offerings of \$136,244.

Recall that we “tithed” our capital campaign to mission, so 90% of these offerings are available for the building project. Along with some additional funds from Legacy Ministry and Memorials, our pledges and subsequent offerings will provide \$233,000 to support the building project. To date, we have incurred \$10,000 of expenses.

Next Steps and Timing

Given the challenges brought forth with the increased updated budget, the Project Lead Team recommended to Mountain Shadows’ Session that we reconsider the sequencing of the building project and undertake the sanctuary remodel first. The Session affirmed and formally approved this decision on April 28, 2021. The Session recognizes the need to renovate the sanctuary prior to our hoped-for return to in-person worship service in October of 2021. To that end, the Session has authorized the Project Lead Team to engage a qualified contractor to begin work on the sanctuary remodel as soon as possible. We will be able to complete this work with the *Building Faithfully* offerings and not incur any new debt. Further, as offerings are received, the church office updates and landscaping upgrades will be undertaken, again, without incurring additional debt.

The vision of the new building remains a critical part of this building project to support congregational fellowship, ministries, and community outreach. Given the increased costs for the new building in the updated project budget, more planning, prayer, alternatives, and additional funding need to be investigated before we, as a congregation, can reach a decision to undertake the construction of a new building.

Following the resumption of in-person worship services in a remodeled sanctuary, planning for the new building will resume in earnest. We believe that modifying the chancel will meet our objective to reduce safety concerns and accommodate the growing music ministry. Remodeling the sanctuary to accommodate those with mobility and hearing needs will make us an even more welcoming congregation. As our church “returns to normal,” we will reconsider a new building that addresses our congregation’s stated desire for expanded fellowship, classes, gatherings, and community outreach.

In summary, Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church is using *Building Faithfully* offerings already received to remodel the sanctuary, update offices and landscaping. We will consider the construction of a new building after in-person worship resumes and our finances are better known. Our goal is to complete the work that you have already authorized by September 30, 2021. We look forward to seeing you via Zoom at the Congregational Town Hall Gathering following worship on Sunday, May 16, 2021.

In Christ,

Project Lead Team: JJ Johnston, David Raffety and Pamela Schultz

*So then, whenever you have an opportunity,
let us work for the good of all.* Galatians 6:10