

11.18.2025

To: Plymouth Church Council

Cc: Project Management Committee

This evening the Project Management Committee would like to update everyone on recent activities within the Committee. Thank you for allowing the time on the agenda. Many things have transpired since we met with you in October.

1. The Project Management Committee reached a consensus that a 'called congregational meeting' should not be conducted until the PMC has project costs better known and understood. Even though we believe the called meeting addresses only the "possible change in chancel design", it is our belief now that many congregants would like to know what the estimated cost will be before a vote is taken.

2. The Clark-Huesemann Design Team has been 'on hold' finishing up specifications for the project. The PMC decided it wanted more information about the goals for **Enter In** (think congregants' survey here). Throughout the survey process and subsequent review/discussion, the PMC determined it wanted slightly different details added to designing a chancel change. These included the use of a stair/lift piece of equipment and a greater height / depth in the chancel space. Of great importance to us was the ability to accommodate all aspects of worship involvement including piano, bell choirs, strings, brass, Gathering of Grace, and flexibility for large group music productions. We have arrived at a design for the chancel that can now be cost estimated by our advisors. Please keep in mind, the PMC has not voted on a design but will soon take up a recommendation to you.

3. The PMC will meet on December 8 to receive projected costs from contractors, engineers, acousticians, and casework professionals. We would like to return to the Council at the next meeting (12.16?) to update you on the design and to ask for your approval to share our plans with congregants in January.

4. Work is underway (as this is written) to build the necessary information exchange with the State Historical Preservation Office. The initial discussions have been positive giving our working committee a better hope for the important "historical tax credits" portion of our anticipated revenue stream. Nothing can be concretely planned for tax credits until the project moves along and towards completion. More information about this could be available at the December meeting of the Council.

5. The Project Management Committee now believes a called congregational meeting would be best if accomplished in the early weeks of January 2026. At that time, we will have a design and we will have accurate information to share regarding costs.

6. The design team of Clark-Huesemann has been directed by the PMC to continue with its proposed timeline of project steps and recommendations to the PMC. This is important as any delay occurred now would effect the start of construction for spring, '26.

Several voting members of the PMC are present this evening to address any questions.

Thank you for your time.

Terry Schmidt, Chair

Project Management Committee