

January 7, 2025

To: Plymouth Church Council  
Cc: Project Management Committee

The Project Management Committee returns to the Council this evening to provide an update since we last met with you on December 16. As you recall, the PMC was not ready at that time for a final design proposal seeking Council endorsement. The PMC was still grappling with tweaks in the design and a determination of how the current budget revenue amounts could make the project feasible.

Tonight, the Council is asked to approve a final design that affects the new pipe organ casework that includes an accessible choir loft. Submitted with this recommendation is a photo rendering of the proposed changes. This recommended action for the casework and accessible choir loft should be a stand-alone Council consideration. Also tonight, the Council is asked to approve a design that will expand the chancel area making it accessible and flexible.

Designers from **Clark-Huesemann** and from **E.F. Keebler Rendering Services for Organ Builders** have collaborated on a ‘master’ rendering that incorporates the new organ casework with an accessible new choir loft and a newly constructed chancel area that is accessible and somewhat smaller than previously shown to you. This new photo-rendering is attached for your review. (I suspect in the days ahead we will have additional photo renderings to present but only one was available at this writing.)

On December 16, the Council passed unanimously the following motion: “to accept Option A subject to the ability to (1) reduce the size of the chancel in a way that still accommodates/preserves flexibility and is aesthetically acceptable, and (2) is demonstrated to be something that can be accommodated with the money we have currently, the pledges we have outstanding, and the best projection we can generate regarding the amount we are likely to receive from tax credits unless additional donations are received that make the budget neutral or positive”.

The Project Management Committee was **not** able to meet all of the requirements approved by the Council on December 16. We did reduce the size of the chancel. We did provide accessibility and we did provide a plan that provides flexibility. Not all PMC members found the plan aesthetically pleasing. At the current time, we do NOT have a plan that can be accomplished with current funds/pledges. It is projected we could have a revenue shortfall of \$110,000. This amount must be considered fluid. PMC Member

Stephen Carttar has examined our proposed budget with great detail. So many variables are in play. Stephen is prepared to answer questions as they develop this evening.

The Project Management Committee is acutely aware that historical tax credits can only be estimated and cannot be accurately calculated until formal requests are made with State of Kansas revenue officials. This remains a question until the project is finished and submitted. The PMC accounting experts have worked extensively to provide for the committee the “best calculated estimates”. This due diligence is appreciated!

This evening, the Project Management Committee brings two requests for action:

1. The Project Management Committee proposes to the Church Council that it accepts the design of the new pipe organ casework and the newly designed choir loft with accessibility. (The Project Management Committee unanimously supports this recommendation.)
2. The Project Management Committee proposes to the Church Council that it accepts the design for a new church chancel that is widened from the present chancel in use and is accessible via a designed ramp. (While not unanimous in this recommendation, the PMC determined via consensus to present this for Council consideration.)

If the Council approves the two suggested motions, the Project Management Committee is prepared and willing to provide for Plymouth Congregants as many educational opportunities as possible - both in person and with other media tools – to better understand this current work and planning.

Several members of the Project Management Committee are present this evening to answer questions or address concerns from the Council.

Respectfully,

Terry Schmidt, Chair

Project Management Committee