

VISION 2020 COMMITTEE MEETING
Sunday, June 16, 2019

The first meeting of the Vision 2020 Committee charged with devising an appropriate plan to update our sanctuary, replace the Steinway piano and purchase a new organ was opened with prayer at 11:05 a.m. on Sunday, June 16, 2019. It is also the Committee's charge to suggest viable fundraising methods to pay for such improvements.

Those present were Herb Gordon, John Hamilton, Janet Martin, Chi Yi Chen Wolbrink, and George Wong. Absent were Sperry Davis, Clif Furedy, Doug Mitchell, Chris Pascuzzi, and Bill Warden, due to Father's Day obligations.

George Wong was selected to be moderator of the committee, and Janet Martin agreed to be co-moderator.

The first item discussed was when future meetings should be scheduled, and the majority opinion was for Sundays at 11 a.m. That will be the stated time unless someone raises a significant objection at our next meeting.

We were asked to draw up our individual "wish lists" to arrive at a consensus of what changes/additions would be most desired if all the funds needed to do everything at once were not available.

Herb Gordon suggested that a new schematic be drawn for the Sanctuary, including changes to the arrangement of the pews, installing the new organ, providing appropriate space for the choir and praise team at the front of the church, and repositioning the Steinway piano. The removal of two or three pews about half way from the front of the church on each side of the center aisle of the church was suggested to allow better access to congregants in time of medical emergencies and to allow quicker egress from the Sanctuary. Those open spaces also would allow wheelchair-bound worshippers to sit in a more comfortable area than at the very front or back of the sanctuary.

Herb Gordon offered to reach out to Class A contractors for firm bids for the physical and electrical changes to the Sanctuary.

Herb Gordon said that he will ask his wife, Louise, who works at Royster(?) Presbyterian Church in Norfolk to research the costs of replacing their pews several years ago. Those costs will provide information to compare to bids we will be given.

Herb Gordon volunteered to cover the costs of LED lights (currently estimated at \$2,000) in the Sanctuary and the electrical work necessary to raise and lower the lights when bulbs need to be changed (currently estimated at \$3,000). The present method of changing the bulbs requires Eugene to climb a very high ladder and balance himself while changing the bulbs. We all agreed that is far too dangerous to continue.

A gift of \$100,000 has been made to the church to be used toward a new organ. There is an additional \$35,000 in the organ fund. That leaves necessary fundraising of \$53,000.

Steinway has said that they will cover expenses (up to \$1,000) for those persons selected to choose the piano most appropriate for our sanctuary. Steinway will have five instruments (in their NYC store) pre-selected which they believe best suited to our needs. The final choice will be up to the members of the committee who travel to NYC.

The matter of repairing/replacing the stained-glass windows was raised. Herb Gordon said that to replace them would cost approximately \$80,000 and that, since the existing stained glass is of far better quality than new glass would be, it might be more appropriate to caulk the windows to prevent leaking and replace only those sections of glass that are damaged beyond repair. A consultant will examine our stained-glass windows on June 26th and give us advice on how to proceed..

Several fund-raising methods were suggested:

“Silent” versus public solicitation. “Silent” solicitation would involve speaking to members of the church who might be receptive to donating to the Campaign. It was suggested that David and Emma might go through the directory and suggest persons we might approach peer-to-peer, perhaps meeting them together with David or Emma.

Social Media – Facebook or our church website

Multiple “Minute for Mission” presentations

Matching Pledge challenge

Envelope pledges

Contribute engraved bricks for the chancel steps at a set cost per brick

Any other ideas for fundraising would be most welcome.

The meeting was closed with prayer at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Martin, Secretary *pro tem*