

## **Update on the Progress of the Campus Development Committee June 2014**

The Campus Development Committee was charged by Church Council in 2012 to continue the vision of the strategic plan to revitalize Bethel Hill with a 25 year future plan for our church. The committee has been meeting regularly since 2012 to address various aspects of the strategic plan and the subsequent work of the Visioning Committee.

In the last year the committee has worked to gather additional ideas, comments and viewpoints from church members through several open-forum meetings and a survey. The information obtained reinforced previous information regarding areas that are generally important to our members, such as the appreciation for the historic and small-church feel of Bethel Hill. Members want to connect with each other and have opportunities to study, worship, support, and socialize together. As well, there are areas that the membership would like to address such as a worship space where we can worship together with an attached nursery, parking issues, and building accessibility. All of this information was translated into a Request for Proposal which ranked by importance the various aspects of the church's physical needs.

The Request for Proposal was sent to 21 architectural firms in November to see who was interested in working with Bethel Hill to plan a phased-approach of physical changes addressing our visioning goals. Of the 21 firms, seven responded with proposals. The committee narrowed the field down to four firms and individually interviewed them in May. The committee was looking for a firm that had experience working on ecclesiastical projects with a multi-year phased approach with the most cost-effective strategies, a clear understanding of what our congregation held dear, and a process that helped unify our many stakeholders. Of the four firms interviewed, one firm Althouse, Jaffe & Associates emerged as the clear choice by the committee.

The Campus Development Committee then presented to the Church Council at the June meeting requesting up to \$70,000 to move forward. The money will cover basic architectural services with Althouse, Jaffe, & Associates, site surveys, work with engineering firms regarding campus challenges such as sewage and property storm water drainage, legal fees, permitting, fees to meet township requirements, etc. At the end of this phase, the church will have a clear indication of what the township will allow us to do, complete knowledge of our property challenges with solutions, and a phased master plan for changes to our campus which can be carried out over an extended period of time. The architectural firm chosen focuses on a process specific to church stakeholders which provides an opportunity for all voices to be heard, creates a venue for innovation and creativity in the architectural layout, and helps decide budget. This process has been a cornerstone of Althouse, Jaffe & Associates success in helping churches achieve their goals.

The Church Council approved the Campus Development Committee's request and the money will be drawn down equally from the Cox Property fund and the Building (new construction) fund. This expense will not affect any current programming or operation of the church. As we move forward with this very exciting next phase we will need to keep asking ourselves what Bethel Hill as a unified congregation finds important today, how we want to represent ourselves in the community in the next ten years, and what legacy we wish to leave for the children of Christ twenty years from now. The committee and Jack Althouse anticipate hearing the great ideas and comments you will share in upcoming all-church workshops where together we will piece together a combined vision for what our campus will look like moving forward. Stay tuned!