

Mt. Hope Building Expansion – Time for Decision

Revised April 4, 2025



The Need: As Mt. Hope Church grows in our relationships with God and others, a dynamic need has arisen to provide appropriate and practical physical space to maintain the rich culture of our church. Keeping the church focused in **one service on Sundays** and creating ample **space for fellowship gatherings** has become a priority need for

our church. To that end, a modest expansion of our sanctuary and the creation of new, larger fellowship space has been designed.

- At present, the **single largest space** in which we can meet for **open fellowship**—other than the sanctuary—seats only 30 people.
 - **With the proposed new expansion**, we will be able to seat **80 people** around tables in one large multi-purpose space, and **another 40** around tables in the multi-use expansion of the sanctuary.
- **A large new foyer, large restrooms, and modern expanded kitchen** will support all the activities and fellowship needs of the congregation.
- **The sanctuary will gain up to 85 new seats** in a **multi-use extension** that will preserve the historical look, feel, and wood finishes of our 1800s-era worship space.
 - This expansion will allow our church to grow in **one weekly service** instead of holding multiple Sunday morning services, an essential reality to preserving the **in-depth relational culture** of our church.





The Question:

While this project seems within reach of our current financial situation, it is imperative that we collectively **hear from the Holy Spirit** if this is indeed the **project** and **timing** He is leading us to. We have held several prayer vigils and prayer efforts to ask everyone in our congregation to seek

God for His wisdom and leadership. Our final weeks of listening prayer and decision-making as a congregation are scheduled to **wrap up by the end of April 2025**.

Our Financial Situation: Through the bold generosity of previous generations, Mt. Hope is in an incredibly strong and stable financial situation. This makes the potential of this project within reasonable reach **if** the Holy Spirit is leading the necessary levels of generosity from our current Mt. Hope generation.

- We are **currently debt-free** with all our property and facilities with a net financial cash position of approximately **\$1.1M**.
 - Of this, approximately **\$800,000** is **cash-in-hand** designated exclusively for this facility expansion project.
- The **total design and construction cost** has increased to an estimated at **\$2.5M - \$2.8M**.
 - We are seeking the Holy Spirit for an **initial one-time generosity** from individuals in the congregation by **August 1, 2025**, to enlarge the cash-on-hand for the project, enabling us to make a clear decision about moving forward with next steps.
 - Then, any additional **ongoing monthly commitments** over the next **two to three years** will enable increased confidence for the remaining project costs.



The Specific and Personal Ask: There are **three specific questions** we have asked the congregation to seek the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Now it is time to transition from seeking and listening to **deciding** and **communicating**. The three questions we need to hear from you as to what God is leading in your heart are:



- Is the Holy Spirit impressing upon you that this is the **right project** for our church?
- Is the Holy Spirit impressing upon you that this is the **right time** for this project?
- Is the Holy Spirit impressing upon you **personal financial generosity** towards this project?

Between **Sunday, April 6** and **Sunday, April 20**, a **confidential** online and printed **communication card** will be available for individuals to **communicate the specific generosity** the Holy Spirit is leading them to contribute to this project. **For those who prefer to complete this card online, use this QR Code:**



- What **one-time financial gift** is the Holy Spirit leading you to make as cash-on-hand for the building project—to be given **between now and August 2025**?
- **Or...** what **one-time financial gift** is the Holy Spirit leading you to make as cash-on-hand for the building project—to be given at some other time?
- What **ongoing monthly designated giving** is the Holy Spirit leading you to make **over the next two to three years** to help build cash for the project, or to support debt service / debt elimination should debt be a potential part of the project?

NOTE: Commitment communications will be **strictly confidential**, seen only by our finance team and a select committee of our Board of Administration for the purpose of evaluating the overall financial position of our church to take on this project. The Elders, Pastor, and Staff will **NOT** have access to the names of individual donors who are committing to this generosity. **Individuals who wish to discuss** their potential generosity with the Pastor or Elders or Board members—or to discuss any questions or concerns—are encouraged to contact those leaders directly for a confidential conversation.

Sunday, April 27, 11:45 – 1:00 p.m., an all-congregation **FINAL decision meeting** where our Covenant Partners will vote to either **proceed** with the project, **proceed** with **only one phase** of the project, **pause** the entire project for a later time, or **dismiss** the project altogether.

