

The 2017 Church Council was pleased to offer information meeting in September. For those that were unable to attend, we want to provide a brief follow up on the items that were discussed. Below is the agenda showing the items discussed:

### INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL



Members: front row (l-r): Jason Freeman, Vice President; Amy Steinbach, Chaplain; Anita Haughenbury, Secretary; Kristen Roberts; Back row (l-r): Dale Thompson; Greg Voss, Treasurer; Lois Mulbrook, President; Eric Knoll; Pastor Perry Fruhling

The Council meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month and the meetings are open to all partners. The minutes are available from the church office.

### COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

**Visioning Process** – Every three to four years the council undertakes the process of looking to see where St. Mark's has been and where we hear God leading us. We then develop "Bold Steps" to guide us. The timing was right to undertake the process again. We finalized the Bold Steps in June.

#### **We will create a disciple making culture based on the life of Jesus Christ with emphasis on:**

1. Develop and grow Small Group Ministry, High School Ministry, and Children's Ministry to nurture a disciple-making culture.
2. Cultivate an environment leading to resource development in the areas of time, talent, and treasures.
3. Continue to expand and grow mission and servant ministry opportunities.

#### **Formation of teams following Capital Appeal – Two teams have been formed:**

1. **Capital Appeal Project Oversight Team** – to assist Council with monitoring the progress of each of the refurbishing projects ensuring that each stays on budget, are meeting time deadlines, and provide support to the staff as the projects are completed.
2. **Capital Appeal Follow Up Team** – to regularly communicate with St. Mark's partners regarding the status of the use of the appeal funds and status of pledge payments.

**Staffing Updates** – We were blessed to be able to hire Pam Schulz as the Director of Children's Ministry. We are still working to fill the Worship Leader/High School Ministry Director. Budget discipline has dictated the timing of the hires.

**Discipling** – The Church Council has been actively involved with Pastor Jody to study leading the Disciple-shift within a congregation and then form a Disciplemaking leadership team. All three Pastors will be leading disciple-making in some regard as we seek to infuse discipling into our current ministries.

## CAPITAL APPEAL PROJECTS UPDATE

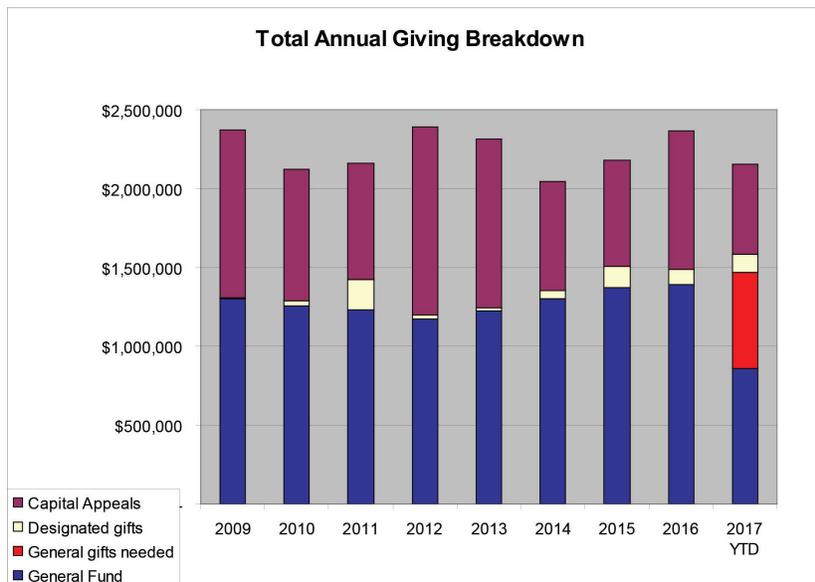
*Teams are working hard on the following planning projects:*

- Children’s Ministry Refurbishing – a team is designated for updating Children’s Ministry area in the lower level of St. Mark’s.
- Signage – both interior (inside the building) and exterior signage (road entrances included)
- Life Worship Center (not funded through the appeal, but with assistance of the St. Mark’s Foundation and a bequest we are able move forward with this project even though the Capital Appeal was not able to provide the funds)
- Heating and Cooling In-Kind Gift to replace units as needed in the section of the building built in 1999

***A congregational meeting will be called to approve the spending of the funds on these projects as required by the constitution. Once the teams have firm costs associated with each project, the meeting will be called (October or November).***

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Fund giving was slower than expected in the first five months of 2017. As a result, staff has taken a conservative approach to spending and rehiring. During the summer months, our financial position was strengthened by solid giving, but a significant need remains in the last four months of this year. To reach our budget of \$1,469,000, general offering needs to be about \$612,000 in the last four months compared to last year when we needed \$513,000. We invite the congregation to participate fully to reach our financial goals for 2017 to continue our outreach with the gospel in significant ways.



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**October 8** – Mission Sunday

**October 29** – Luther 500th Anniversary Celebration

**January 28, 2018** - Annual Meeting

On a final note, the Council wants to invite all of you to stay involved in the process. If you have any questions, please reach out. We will be more than happy to discuss things with you. Thank you for your support and please continue to pray for the leadership and staff of St. Mark’s. To God be the Glory!