

As discussions and communication regarding the Marsh Building Project proceed, **frequently asked questions** have emerged over several aspects of the project. Some detailed questions and comments have also resulted from the Readiness Study interviews, which were conducted by the Rev. P. William Vander-

In just a few words, what is the Marsh Building Revitalization Project all about?

The project is all about the future of First Church and our ability to meet the anticipated and current demands of the many ministries that use the building for **education, fellowship and worship**.

This has been talked about for years. Why does it need to be done now?

Now is the time, because many of the unfavorable conditions in the building have been neglected and tolerated for far too long. These conditions continue to negatively impact the use of the building—especially **Church School** comfort, safety and effectiveness.

Can't we just paint and spruce up the classrooms and Keith Jones Hall areas?

Sprucing up will not work. It has been unsuccessfully attempted before, and the problems with drainage and dampness that have plagued the building for years have led to these failed attempts and must now be addressed **at their root cause**.

That will involve infrastructure improvements both **outside** around the building's foundation and **inside** with new HVAC systems.

Regarding Keith Jones Hall, the worship services conducted there have had the greatest growth in the past several years.

As with the Sunday School rooms, it is clear that Keith Jones Hall is not an environment conducive to prayerful and celebratory worship and instruction.

Can we as a church afford this now? Attendance and giving seem to be down.

Financial indicators are as strong as we have seen in recent years, plus there are operating and endowment funds available to cover the costs related to some parts of the project.

It is anticipated that a successful fundraising campaign will provide the balance of the capital required.

Our recent Readiness Study confirmed that the basis exists for a successful campaign.

Would it help me to better understand this project if I toured the sites in question?

Members of the congregation who already have toured the Marsh Building have been enlightened and now have a better appreciation for the urgency of the need for this project.

Tours are strongly encouraged and can be readily arranged for groups or individuals at any time. Contact **John Davis** for information, at 860.633.4388.

How important is it to have monies taken from the Endowment Funds to help finance this project?

Certain designated funds from the endowment are meant to be used to improve our facilities and to promote the growth and strength of our congregation.

The endowment currently has a strong fund balance and some of those funds should be applied to this project as the church's equity contribution to complement the planned fundraising campaign. Using portions of the endowment wisely in this fashion would be pleasing to the Lord.

Wyden, an independent outside consultant who was engaged by the church.

What follows is a series of FAQs and their answers, prepared by members of the Marsh Building Committee, who have been actively involved in finalizing plans for review by the entire congregation.

Why is it important to have Keith Jones Hall included in the renovation?

The building project should be approached in a comprehensive top-to-bottom fashion. This is the most cost-effective way to plan the project, and there are at least 18 different ministries that would be better served in an enhanced Keith Jones Hall.

When completed, the renovated Keith Jones Hall will have the capacity to serve up to 210 people.

The new floor plan will be quite feasible and will increase our capacity to host several events, such as the annual Heritage Luncheon.

There are other areas of the church buildings that need attention. Why not concentrate on those problems?

That statement is correct, and an ongoing maintenance plan will be developed by a church committee charged with that responsibility.

Funds are allocated for this purpose annually and will be spent accordingly within the church's operating budget.

When we do go ahead with this renovation, what are the positive aspects that we can expect?

We will have healthy classrooms and common spaces, attractive to young parents and conducive to the Christian education of our children and young adults at important times in their Christian journey.

Improved worship and fellowship space will enhance the experience and be welcoming to new members and will benefit our own members at First Church.



The Marsh Building is a key element on our historic landmark campus and should be on a par with our other facilities.

How can we get folks in the congregation to fully understand and support this renovation?

There will be open communication, with much discussion, good materials presented, and leadership from the pulpit.

Will the congregation be fully informed regarding all aspects of this project?

Absolutely. Every effort is being made now, and will be in the future, to inform the entire congregation of this project.

Other questions? Call John Davis, Marsh Building Committee Chair, at 860.633.4388. For details and linked documents, go to firstchurch.org/marsh.

—The Marsh Building Committee