

## A MESSAGE FROM THE WHCC OFFICE OF THE MODERATOR

JULY 25, 2018

A warm summer greeting from the WHCC Office of the Moderator. We hope you are enjoying some restful time during a very nice season of the year. Many of our members have been away on vacations or travels, so we wanted to update everyone on the many, many happenings in our church.

As you may recall, at our annual meeting this year, we approved spending for some of the initial findings of last year's Facilities Condition Assessment Plan (FCAP). Additionally, we also approved funding to have a WHCC Master Plan developed, building on the findings of the FCAP and focused on the broader facility and program needs of our church for the coming years.

As a result of the initial findings of the FCAP, the Property Management Committee (co-chairs Andy Wilson and Alex Kolb), with great assistance from Cynthia Gordan and Myralee Wilson, is managing a series of short-term projects designed to improve our church building and our worship environment. Some of the work is behind the scenes but enormously essential – repairs to the roof, pruning of tree limbs, and efforts to keep our boiler, fire and smoke alarm, and wastewater systems running. Other projects are more visible, including improved lighting in the sanctuary; you may have noticed a brighter, warmer aesthetic that enhances the beauty of the space, and soon our choir will enjoy much-improved lighting as that project gets completed.

More recently, the Property Committee has begun an extensive refresh of the assembly room area. This involves replacing the badly worn tile floor, repainting the walls and trim and rehabilitating the lighting, as well as adding push-button, accessible doors at the west entrance. The assembly room is a high-use area of the Church – both after worship on Sundays as well as during the week, when nursery school families, Scout troops, New Beginnings members, Wellesley Food Pantry clients and many others take advantage of this important space. The Property Committee members have expressed their hope that everyone will be pleased with the progress.

In parallel with the short-term efforts, the Master Plan Committee (co-chaired by Judy Nitsch and Janeen Hansen) has also been very active in the last few months. These dedicated church members have been working with the architect we retained to assimilate valuable congregation inputs from late spring, working towards developing long-term solutions for our space and program needs. More will be shared with all members of WHCC on the Master Plan in the coming months, as the final report is on track to be completed by early October.

Supporting all of these efforts, Church Council formed a Resource Planning Committee (chaired by Linda Thomas), which did an in depth study of our WHCC financial giving history (both stewardship and previous capital campaigns), demographics, church membership trends, and more. Additionally, they visited several churches in the area that recently held capital campaigns. The committee had a number of insights and suggestions for our congregation to consider as we look ahead at some broader financial outlays anticipated by both the completed FCAP and the pending Master Plan.

On behalf of the Office of the Moderator, we owe sincere thanks and gratitude to all those who continue to serve our church, sharing their gifts, passions and efforts during what normally are our summer “rest” months. Please join us in thanking those working to make WHCC better in so many ways.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, do feel free to talk with us or send an email to [officeofthemoderator@hillschurch.org](mailto:officeofthemoderator@hillschurch.org).

Respectfully and In Service,

*Gintas Vildzius, Moderator*  
*Janeen S. Hansen, Moderator Emerita*  
*Mary Hill Canavan, Rising Moderator*