

Dear Members and Friends of the Hills Church,

We are happy to report that the motion to approve the expansion of the scope and budget of the HVAC System Project, and related upgrades, improvements and repairs needed in the Parish House passed at the Special Meeting held this past Sunday after worship.

Construction is scheduled to begin the week of June 17. In preparation, you will start to notice changes in the church offices and church school classrooms over the next few weeks, as we prepare to temporarily move out of the Parish House. During construction, church ministries will continue in ways that are flexible and creative. The sanctuary, assembly room, chapel, and food pantry will all be largely unaffected by construction and available, although some spaces will see adapted use. As plans are finalized for church staff and temporary office and meeting space, we will keep you informed. Look for periodic updates in “Events at the Hills” on this first phase of the Master Plan.

At the end of an information session held two weeks ago, one member observed, “One of the strengths of our faith community that I see over and over again is the way people come together in times of need, and over the course of these past few months, I have seen people living that out with great generosity and care for our church.”

And did people come together with generosity:

- To Janeen Hansen, Judy Nitsch, and Betty Ule of the Master Planning Steering Committee whose expertise informed everyone’s understanding throughout this process;
 - To Property Maintenance Co-Chairs Andy Wilson and Alex Kolb who asked hard questions that will strengthen the project’s contingency plans;
 - To Church Council members who discerned the motion with great care and insight;
 - To Cynthia Gordan who provided critical input and support to ensure we stayed on schedule and on message;
 - To our ministers who guided our steps so that the church continues to be the church in the midst of this renovation, and most importantly;
 - To each and every member of the congregation; throughout this process, the questions, ideas, and hopes you expressed demonstrated great care for our church and a commitment to our future.
- And for that, we are hugely grateful.

Should you have any questions or concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to contact us. E-mail officeofthemoderator@hillschurch.org to share them with Mary Hill Canavan, Gintas Vildzius, and Chris Stowell or reach out to any of them individually.

Wherever you sit on a Sunday morning in the sanctuary, whether your connection to this church is old or new, your voice matters - as it is our collective discernment that determines the next step on our church journey and in our life as a faith community. And this Sunday’s vote bore that out.