



November 26, 2018

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

As you know, our congregation made a bold decision in April to undertake long-delayed repairs to our church building and to borrow up to \$3 million to do that. We are excited to report that the project is gathering pace and here is the latest.

### **Repairs to heating/cooling, lighting, signage and miscellaneous**

- o A construction contractor was engaged in October and work is expected to start in January on replacing our old and inefficient heating/cooling system with a more efficient one; replacing inefficient lighting with a more efficient type; upgrading outside signage; and replacing floor coverings and paint in the hallways and office areas. Roof repairs also may be needed.
- o Plans have been submitted to the City of Austin for review and permit approvals are expected by the end of the year.
- o Utility cost savings alone will pay for the new lighting in just over two years.

### **Renew, Restore and Rejoice**

- o In October we launched a capital fund-raising campaign called "Renew, Restore and Rejoice" to pay off our loan for the repairs in 3 years. At the April congregational meeting, members indicated an interest in limiting our debt.
- o Kirby-Smith Associates has been retained to partner with us in the campaign. Kirby-Smith will provide a spiritually-based capital campaign that strengthens our relationship with Jesus Christ while helping us work towards our financial goals.
- o The campaign kicked off with Town Hall meetings in October and will continue with individual and group meetings with church members in November – February.
- o In March we will have a commitment Sunday.

### **Next steps**

We invite you to join with us and the rest of the congregation by doing three things:

- o Pray for God's continued blessing on St. Martin's and our ministry. Enclosed is a prayer card to inspire and guide us in our fundraising.
- o Stay informed as we discern how God intends for us to revitalize St. Martin's.
- o Pledge to give generously, both your dollars and yourself, as God has generously given to you.

God's grace is the new opportunity that is in front of us.

In Christ's name,

Rev. Peder N. Sandager

Rev. Andrew Dietzel