

## FRONT PAGE ARTICLE

### **Congregational Meeting – October 25<sup>th</sup> – A Vote on Beginning the Mission Campaign**

On October 25<sup>th</sup> we will have two historic firsts at St. Peter's. Our first-ever virtual Congregational Meeting ... and our first-ever Mission Campaign. If you are a bit long of beard here at St. Peter's, you may remember a number of capital appeals and building campaigns over the years that did everything from expanding our church building footprint to adding HVAC systems. But we have never had a "Mission Campaign." Why the distinctive language? Because our expectation is that the proposal our Congregation Council places before you for a fundraising campaign is going to touch down in more areas than HVAC upgrades, parking lot repairs, debt reduction and Wi-Fi work. Our expectation is that our proposed fundraising efforts will also enhance existing and new ministries at St. Peter's as the focal parts of our updated Mission Statement ... thus the term "Mission Campaign. A church is not the Church, unless we are invested in mission beyond our walls, both near and far. This campaign will also help us achieve these ministry goals.

The specific details of what missions and ministries will be enhanced (or created) is not available yet, because we are also in the early stage of a Strategic Planning process that, with YOUR help, will allow us to identify the ministries here that need further strengthening and supporting along with the new ministries that are waiting to find expression in our congregational life through the support of our congregational time, talents, and treasures. Our Mission Campaign will take care of business in terms of restoring some of the property issues noted above that need attention ... it will allow us to pay down our mortgage in a significant way ... and it will create seed money for some other ministry projects ... ministries that YOU will be determining for us.

So, I expect to "see" you on October 25<sup>th</sup>, as we ask you to consider an affirmative vote to move forward with our Mission Campaign. What you will be asked to vote in favor of is entering into a contract with Kirby-Smith Associates to guide us through both this visioning process and the assessment of the financial as well as time & talent support for this mission appeal. The consultation fee for Kirby-Smith to lead this campaign \$44,500. With the help and guidance of Richie & Rachel Musser, we hope to raise at least \$1.3-million. Richie and Rachel have been an invaluable presence in guiding us through our recent feasibility study and in helping us identify realistic goals for this campaign. The consultation fee for the campaign is only about 3% of that expected mission goal. That is a very competitive fee for helping us to raise this amount of money for our physical plant and ministries. You pay a higher rate than that on your credit card, or your Boscov's charge. The Musser's have also been a valuable resource in organizing and coaching the strategic planning process noted earlier in this letter. Begun in August, the planning process should conclude with recommendations to Council in January 2021. The excellence of leadership, wisdom and experience that the Mussers bring to their stewardship ministry among us is significant and timely, to say the least.

As mentioned, the other historic "first" is that we will use as a vehicle of approval, our first virtual congregational meeting. We are currently working to select a virtual meeting platform that will allow us to have presentations ... and answer questions ... and vote in a manner that fulfills the expectations Pennsylvania law requires of us as a non-profit organization. We are also bound by our Lower Susquehanna synod constitutional requirements for a congregational meeting, and so the platform we choose must also fulfill our church constitutional needs for a valid congregational meeting.

We appreciate you tuning in on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. for our specially called Congregational Meeting to consider the recommendation: "To contract with Kirby-Smith Associates, in the amount of \$44,500, to lead a Mission Campaign beginning in the fall of 2020 and continuing into 2023 to meet our existing and potential mission goals for St. Peter's."

On behalf of your church staff, I thank you for your consideration and support of our upcoming Mission Campaign under the guidance of Kirby-Smith Associates through the consultation of Richie & Rachel Musser.

God's Peace,  
Pastor Craig