

FAQ: How will we pay for the Bell Tower Project?

Summary of project and costs:

The base work for the bell tower project amounts to \$95,700. It includes:

- removing the current bell tower and rebuilding the tower with contemporary materials and improved design not visible to the naked eye
- roof repairs
- removing the unused chimney and re-roofing the hole
- repairing and replacing flashings
- repairing the exterior plaster in the entry way
- repairing a gable vent on the south side
- replacing 3 steel lintels
- wire brushing and painting other rusted lintels
- repairing the parapet cap on the front main gable
- roofing the new tower with faux slate instead of asphalt

The bid from Pearson was approved with the following add ons:

- masonry cleaning 4,500
- addition of limestone Celtic cross, 4,900
- replacement of existing front stairs to front doors, 11,000
- interior repair of plaster work and painting inside building and 4,100
- requirement of contractor's performance/surety bond. 700.00

These additions total an additional \$24,500 bring total construction cost to \$120,900.

Immediate Payment through Funds Liquidation:

The session has approved the liquidation of invested funds in the following approximate amounts from three funds:

- The newly renamed and repurposed Building fund (formerly the manse fund) **\$35,000**
- Donna Raymond Fund **\$25,000**
- Schirmer Fund **\$60,000**

These liquidation amounts are based on fund balances using closing per share values on 9/14/11. It is our hope, given the state of the market, to keep our liquidation at the minimum necessary, with funds raised through the congregation, friends, and fundraising projects to be made available at the front end of the project.

Session has already decided to **pay for the Celtic cross costs through Memorial Funds**, decreasing the amount needed for liquidation by \$5,000.

Repayment of Funds Schedule

Session considers the liquidation of funds to be a no interest loan to ourselves that must be repaid as cash contributions are received from members and friends of the congregation. The cash raising campaign is expected to run from Oct. 2011 through the calendar end of 2013.

How Can You Participate?

Pray about your participation and support of the fund drive. You may contribute by:

- making one lump sum donation to the project
- making a pledge for periodic contributions over the next 27 months
- donating publicly traded shares of stock

Any donation to the bell tower project should always have the notation on the check "Bell Tower" or be remitted in the building fund envelopes. This will assure your donations and fulfillment of your pledge is properly recorded in your giving records and will be reflected in your quarterly giving statements.

(We prefer not to accept gifts of used cars, boats, etc. as we are not experienced in the liquidation of personal property and present market and sale conditions are difficult to predict and may not meet expectations.)

We also hope you will participate in the various fundraising efforts of the church.

Pray and search your heart. This will be a sacrificial donation in the rich tradition of our congregation as we continue to witness to the love of Christ. Our church lives out its motto that “Love Grows Here.” Let us maintain our building’s visible witness to that good work.

History of Financial Sacrifice

Remember we are taking care of the building earlier members of our church worked to build and maintain. Many of our city and community leaders were members of the congregation who, like us, had at one time or another had to stand up and commit a personal financial sacrifice to support this church when the first buildings were built dating from 1847.

Later, in the 1920’s great sacrifices were made again to rebuild the sanctuary following the destruction of our church by fire. In the 1960’s, when the fellowship hall/Christian Education wing was built, a group of church leaders stepped forward to persuade their fellow members and friends to raise funds for that construction project. Through their faith in God and their determination we have the structure that serves us today.

So it has always been. We are a small congregation willing to step forward to do what needs to be done when the time calls for action. By God’s grace and your help, we shall do it again.

A Brief Post Note on Benefits to the Community in Employment Opportunities

This construction project will begin in the spring of 2012 and will last an estimated 60 days. It will help employ local building trades and laborers here in Buchanan and Berrien County and possibly in St. Joseph county in IN at a time when such work is not readily available.