

Management Board approves \$3,650,000 capital campaign for second phase of Mission Possible

The Foundry Management Board, a nine-person elected group, meets monthly to discuss and make decisions concerning church operations. Participants in the Feb. 28 meeting:

Board members: Leigh Carter, Louise Franklin, Matt Hansen, Sam Kilpatrick, P.J. Taylor, Doug Steele, Samantha Sweeney, Dan Vock, Gwen Williamson; Pastors and staff members: Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, Dawn Hand, Ben Roberts

The Foundry Management Board approved a \$3.6 million capital campaign to finance the second phase of the Mission Possible renovation at its Feb. 28 meeting.

The nine-member panel passed the motion unanimously by voice vote. If the funding is secured, it will support the conversion of the Davenport Center into a coffee house, organ upgrades, church exterior improvements and debt reduction.

The coffee house will be open to the public and serve as a venue for alternative worship, Bible study and other meetings.

The capital campaign “allows us to add a chunk of money to the radical hospitality part of the [church’s] vision,” said Foundry Senior Pastor Ginger Gaines-Cirelli.

The campaign has not yet been formally launched.

“We’re just beginning the quiet phase,” Gaines-Cirelli said.

Other items the board addressed:

Hiring a director of family ministries: Following the sudden and unexpected death of Thomas Dumas earlier in the month, the board briefly discussed the process for hiring his successor. The church will first assess the projects that are underway in family and children’s ministry and determine how best to support or streamline them. An interim person may be hired while the search for a permanent director is conducted.

Foundry’s response to immigration crackdown: The board began a discussion of how Foundry could respond to increased immigration enforcement. Ben Roberts, associate pastor and director of social justice ministries, said Foundry probably would not be a good location to provide sanctuary for undocumented immigrants because the facility lacks a “dedicated, safe, sacred space” to house people. But there are other ways Foundry can provide spiritual leadership, he said.

Sanctuary security: The board began a discussion of ways to enhance the safety of the congregation on Sundays. Hiring a security guard was brought up as one idea, but the board did not reach a conclusion.

Budget update: The 2017 Stewardship campaign raised \$1.5 million from 389 pledges, falling short of the goal of \$1.6 million and 400 pledges. But more than half of pledging individuals and families increased their donations, and 100 of the 2017 pledges were from people who had never pledged before.

The 2016 general fund budget shows a surplus of \$416.04, down from \$3,424 after 15 additional journal entries in January.

Report submitted by the Strategic Communications Ministry Team.