

Dear Church Members,

As many of you know, our church has a legacy of stepping out in faith to find God's direction through our actions. We are presently at an important “decision point” in our journey.

Beginning in June 2016, and again in May 2017, the Church Council, with the help of our Trustees, undertook a comprehensive review of all of our facilities addressing a) their current and future operating and maintenance costs, b) their ability to support our worship services and ministry goals and c) their capability to support the vision of our congregation: Loving God, Sharing Faith and Serving Neighbors in order to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The review process provided consideration of multiple options. However, the conclusion of both our June 2016 and our May 2017 review is that our current geographically split campus and the looming repair and future maintenance costs of all of our dated buildings hinders our ability to fulfill our vision and execute our current and future ministries.

In August 2017 a Visioning Task Force(VTF) was formed, consisting of representatives from both our traditional and contemporary services as well as the pastor, and charged with exploring what the Council overwhelmingly voted to be the most feasible option – involving a trade of facilities with the current library and construction of a new Ministries Center on an expanded Pacific campus. The outcome of their work is a detailed report outlining a phased approach to achieve the unification of FUMC Mineola on a single campus, visible and central in the community, with both a new Court of Praise for contemporary worship, a revitalized Sanctuary for traditional worship, new classrooms/kitchen/nursery, open/green space, parking and offices to accommodate our congregation for generations to come.

Last Saturday (April 28, 2018) the VTF presented their unification recommendation to the Church Council and other church members in attendance. The Council overwhelmingly approved the **recommendation** and voted to bring it forward to the **church membership** for consideration.

This begins the next step of the process – communication and discussion with all church members. This phase will include:

1. Dissemination of the VTF Unification Report to all church members by email, access on the church website and availability of copies at the church office.
2. A series of Town Hall Meetings
 1. Initial Presentation and Discussion/ Q&A in 1-hour meetings
 - May 6th, 9:45-10:45 in the Ministries Center
 - May 13th, 9:45-10:45 in Fellowship Hall
 - May 20th, 9:45-10:45 in the Ministries Center
 2. Follow-up Town Halls (as needed) for further Discussion/Q&A
3. Additional communication including Frequently Asked Questions/Answers posted on the church website (these will be updated throughout the process)

We invite and encourage every church member to review the Unification Report, participate in

one or more Town Hall meetings and periodically review the website Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to become fully informed as to the Unification Recommendation.

Once everyone has had the opportunity to become fully familiar with the Unification Recommendation, then additional steps will happen depending upon the outcome of the prior step.

- A Called Church Conference with a Church Wide Vote *of all church members in attendance* (if approved, then)
- A Capital Campaign (if successful, then)
- A Building Committee to develop detailed plans, financing, etc.
- District Approval (if approved, then)
- Transition and Construction Begin

This is a major decision for our congregation and it will have a significant impact on our church and our community now and for the future generations. Please enter into this period prayerfully and with an open-mind. It would be highly unlikely that we will all agree, at least initially, on the path forward. Let us continue to treat everyone with love and let us remember to share our thoughts with attitudes and actions showing our respect for every individual. Regardless of the outcome we remain united in our vision *Loving God, Sharing Faith and Serving Neighbors* in order to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Sincerely,

John Webb (Church Council Chair)

Pastor Paul

John Fuller (Lay Leader)

Debbie Johnson (Church Council Secretary)

JoAnn McMillan (SPRC Chair)

Justin McMillan (Trustee Chair)