

Administrative Board special session August 3, 2025

Submitted by Rebecca L. Griffeth for consideration and correction

Slides are attached at the end of these notes.

- I. Called to order by Pam Auble at 12:02pm
 - a. We are looking to the future and the future of Belmont, building on the visionary leaders who have come before us.
 - b. After the most recent General Conference, Belmont UMC is again in step with our denomination, and we did not suffer the losses that occurred for other churches during the disaffiliation process.
 - c. Last year, we did a comprehensive strategic plan to live into our values and grow our church. We have already fulfilled some of the goals with that plan.
 - d. Now is the time to get our house in order. We need to preserve our sanctuary, and we need remodeling in other areas, making our building more accessible and more welcoming to all who grace our doors.
 - e. There are also longer-range plans in process for the future.
- II. Heather Harris: opening prayer
- III. Louis Jordan
 - a. We are at a crossroads of growing and having wonderful new ministries, while continuing to care for our aging building.
 - b. Picture of the black tarp over the stonework is covering a water leak site.
 - c. Louis has been meeting with various groups to get a feel for our needs, and the majority see the need for strategic planning for our buildings probably funded by a capital campaign.
 - d. See slides attached at the bottom that describe what is needed to get this process underway.
- IV. Motion:
 - a. Move to approve the allocation of up to \$100,000 from the church's operating reserves to be used as seed funding to develop a comprehensive plan for a capital campaign for the Sanctuary, Thomasson Hall, and Welcome area.
 - i. Planning Costs: We are looking at the five areas on the slide where that \$100,000 may go. (see planning costs slide)
 - ii. Horizons Stewardship:

1. They have worked with many UMC's including some in our area for capital campaign and rebuilding post tornado.
 2. We want a contract with Horizon and we are committing to the first two highlighted items. Caveat for going forward is the outcome of the feasibility study.
- iii. Centric Architecture:
1. We would like to continue working with Maggie Scott Bryant at Centric to reimagine our Administration area to make it more welcoming and accessible. See slides.
 2. Continued listening sessions are being planned for looking at possibilities for reimagined space.
- iv. Preservation and Renovation:
1. We have had a structural analysis of the sanctuary and Thomasson Hall, and an analysis of the stained glass windows.
 2. We need to obtain an analysis and estimates for mechanical needs, electrical needs, and audiovisual needs in the sanctuary and Thomasson Hall. This will involve hiring a project manager.
- b. Questions:
- i. Eric Patton asked what amount would be sufficient to fund our operating expenses from reserves for six months. Carrie and Louis said that it would be about twice what we currently have in our reserves (1.4 million).
 - ii. Our intent and hope is to repay the reserves from a capital campaign. But it is too early to make that commitment.
 1. John Pearce stated that we cannot fix everything, and we want to ensure we can afford the renovations.
 2. A later part of the campaign is to continue working with Horizon to increase legacy giving. An increased trust fund would provide a better source of income for preservation and continued maintenance.
 3. We will have updates in our regular Administrative Board meeting in August. We hope to approve the final plan at the December Charge Conference.
 - iii. Eric Patton asks Carrie Sherrill for her thoughts on Horizon as a company.
 1. Carrie responds they are a leading company for UMC's. Great thing is the project will take much of Carrie and Paul's time,

and Horizons will provide a team to assist with this program management and moving forward.

2. The building continues to have issues, and ministry still needs to happen. Utilizing an outside group to help manage this project will aid in continuing to move forward while maintaining and growing our church through daily functions.
3. Erica Allen, whose husband was on BUMC staff in the past, works for Horizons and there is a great partnership with her and Don. Erica has a passion and vested interest in Belmont which aids in the process.
4. Lucian added that John Pearce has also done background work by talking with other churches who have used Horizons, and has obtained positive reports.

c. Louis Jordan states motion again to the group for proposal. Turns over to Pam.

- i. Pam states an individual motion and second is not needed as it is presented from a committee of the church.
- ii. There is no further discussion.
- iii. Pam calls for vote, the motion passes unanimously.

V. Meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.



MOTION:

Move to approve the allocation of up to \$100,000 from the church's operating reserves to be used as seed funding to develop a comprehensive plan for a capital campaign.



PLANNING COSTS:

Horizons Stewardship	\$21,440
Centric Architecture	\$18,000
Project Management	\$18,000
Consultants/Engineers	\$15,000
Unknown/TBD	\$27,560
Total	\$100,000



HORIZONS STEWARDSHIP

Feasibility Study and Campaign Design	\$19,440
Capacity Assessment	\$2,000
Capital Campaign Facilitation (Four Years)	\$45,360
Planned Giving Campaign	\$16,600
Total	\$83,400

If Belmont chooses not to proceed with a campaign following the feasibility study and capacity assessment, we are not committed to continue with the subsequent phases of Horizons' proposal. If a campaign is approved, funding for the later phases will be paid from the campaign's revenue.



CENTRIC ARCHITECTURE

Redesign the First Floor which includes the Foyer, Iris Room, Restrooms, Offices, and Chapel.

Create an open, welcoming space, a front door, and new, accessible restrooms.

Hold listening sessions and provide sketches for possible redesigns.

PRESERVATION AND RENOVATION

Structural building condition assessment was provided by Centric Architecture in February 2025.

Stained glass preservation assessment was provided in February 2025.

Consultants and engineers will be brought in to identify mechanical, electrical, and plumbing needs.

Audio visual, sound, and lighting engineers will be brought in to provide designs and estimates.



Questions:

1. How many reserves will be left if we spend all of the \$100,000?
2. Will we repay the reserves? How?
3. What will be the scope of the capital campaign?
4. What is the timing for the campaign?
5. Will the capital campaign address the need for more parking and optimal utilization of space?
6. What is the plan to ensure our buildings stay repaired in the future?
7. When will the Board see the plan and approve having a campaign?

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