

A Resolution to Build and Renovate Facilities to Further Support SUMC's Ministries and Missions

October 21st, 2024

Submitted by: **The Embrace the Spirit Steering Team** – John Swank – Team Chair and Trustees Chair, Rev. Todd Jordan, Rev. Joy Johnston, Rev. Beth Chenault, Kathy Reedy – Church Council Chair, Neil Ryan – Finance Chair, David Klosterboer & Adam Mowery – Co-chairs of Capital Campaign, Bill Koerner – Lay Leader and Chair of Architecture and Engineering Committee, Kevin Larson, Jerry Dusenbery, and Burke Watson

Recommended by: **Strawbridge UMC Church Council (9/29/2024)**

Approved by: **TAC, Southwest District Building and Location Committee (10/7/2024)**

WHEREAS Strawbridge United Methodist Church (SUMC) is a community compelled by the love of Christ to make a difference in a world of need, and is a welcoming and inclusive community that strives to help *all* find a place to connect and serve, and

WHEREAS several surrounding United Methodist congregations chose to leave the denomination in 2022, and hundreds of former members of these congregations chose SUMC as their new church home, increasing membership from 1,085 at the end of 2021 to 1,518 currently, and

WHEREAS the active membership has increased by a higher percentage as indicated by attendance at worship services increasing from ~250 to over 450 per week, straining available facilities for current members and reasonably expected newcomers, and

WHEREAS SUMC confirmed that new members strongly support its mission, motto and general direction via a congregational survey and visioning exercise in 2023 that identified a need for more a) meeting rooms for adult classes/groups, b) parking, c) designated space for outreach ministries, d) updates and enlargement of children's, youth and choir facilities, and e) infrastructure improvements and major maintenance items, and

WHEREAS Church Council formed building and finance committees and approved conceptual design activities in late 2023; approved pursuing a ~\$7.9 M project, capital campaign and preliminary design activities in March 2024; and subsequently approved a smaller Phase 1 plan with an early cost estimate of ~\$4.7 M and revised funding plan in June 2024, and

WHEREAS these activities concluded in September 2024 with an updated scope and cost estimate for a Phase 1 project totaling \$5.1 M that is forecast to be ready for occupancy in the fall of 2026, and

WHEREAS The United Methodist Book of Discipline calls for congregational approval at this stage of definition via a Church Conference, with final approval of scope, cost, and loan/asset mortgage terms by a Charge Conference when detailed construction drawings and contracts are finalized and ready to be executed, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Strawbridge United Methodist Church shall proceed with a building and renovation program with a supporting financial plan as follows:

- Scope:
 - A new 10,000 sq. ft. building for adult education, mission group storage and meeting space for SUMC and outside groups using our facilities. The second story of this building shall be left unfinished for future completion.
 - Renovation of the children's education area to a) provide a dedicated nursery, b) a sensory space for those with special needs, c) security doors, d) lavatories updated to current ADA standards, and e) one additional office for current staff
 - Renovations to increase the safety and capacity of choir facilities
 - Replacement of all existing roofs
- Funding Plan totaling \$5.13 M:
 - Capital funds available prior to campaign - \$0.45 M
 - Capital campaign pledges - \$3.40 M
 - Non-pledge contributions - \$0.34 M
 - SUMC Member loan in lieu of selling lots now - \$0.30 M
 - Texas Methodist Foundation residual loan - \$0.64 M