

Session Approves Projects and New Capital Campaign

At their regular meeting on June 22, the Session approved a Capital Campaign for our Building, Equipment, and Grounds Committee to complete some urgent and timely needs for our church facilities and grounds. The Session hopes to raise \$130,000 during the next 2½ years to do the following:

- Replace the flat roofs over portions of the Hudnut Hall section of our building;
- Repair and reseal all of the limestone of the church sanctuary and the walls and stairways along Wick Avenue and Wood Street;
- Install security cameras to monitor activity in the church parking lot;
- Repair and repaint ceilings in the third floor rooms and south walls in the parlor dining room and kitchen, the pastor's study, and third floor rooms damaged by years of water leaks from the flat roof;
- Complete major trimming of all trees on the church property.

The B.E.G. Committee has invested many hours this winter and spring researching and getting estimates for the replacement of the flat roofs covering sections of the Hudnut Hall portion of our church building. No one can remember when the current roofs were initially installed, but they have been patched and repaired over many years, and now must be replaced. The new roofs will be guaranteed for 20 years. This project alone is estimated to cost \$65,000.

The Indiana Limestone which covers the entire outside of our sanctuary and lines the sidewalks and stairways on Wick Avenue and Wood Street has been crumbling due to weather. While some of this is normal for limestone, it can be significantly prevented by resealing the surface. This has been done several times since the sanctuary was dedicated in 1960, but it has been probably 10 years since it was last done. The cost estimates are around \$40,000.

While security is always a concern not only for our members, friends, and guests of our congregation, as well as for our facilities in general, several incidents in recent years have caused the B.E.G. Committee to make security cameras a priority. The loss of copper tubing from our sanctuary air conditioner two years ago, the stealing of two cars from our parking lot in the last year and a half, and several incidents at other area churches have led the committee and the Session to believe security cameras especially monitoring our parking area are a good investment of approximately \$5,000.

While some pruning and tree maintenance are ongoing needs, several of our largest trees on the north and south sides of the church property need major trimming. Because of the challenges of the location of some of the trees, the cost of having professional tree trimmers will be a major expense of about \$5,000.

A Capital Campaign Committee is now being formed, and volunteers are welcome. Please contact our Treasurer, Rye Dalton; our Clerk of Session, Chet Cooper; or Rev. Mager if you would be willing to help. Pledges will be requested to be paid between July 2010 and December 2012. The Session authorized the B.E.G. Committee to proceed immediately with the roof project as the water damage grows with each significant rain.

The Session thanks you in advance for your support of this campaign to address both urgent and timely needs of our church facilities and grounds. Grateful for all that we have inherited, let us continue to invest in the maintenance, upkeep, and security of our church's historic presence in the heart of the city.

First Presbyterian Church 201 Wick Avenue Youngstown, OH 44503