

REACH and RENEW RECAP

Seeing our church building as ministry



The Reach and Renew Campaign at First Congregational United Church of Christ of Madison is a five-year initiative (from 2011 through 2016) to renew our health, renew our hospitality, and renew our home. Major upgrades to the church's electrical, heating, and cooling systems are almost completed, but now comes the hard part: deciding which of many worthy potential projects should receive the remaining funds. During the Sunday service on January 13, members placed dots on their favorites among the suggestions made by the work groups (see next page); a **Congregational Conversation before church on March 10** will focus on the proposals that received the highest rankings. On **Saturday, April 6**, a **workshop by Susan Eaton Mendenhall** will help us see the ways our building may be enhancing or discouraging ministry from happening. How are our spaces supporting spiritual formation, community building, and hospitality? The workshop will awaken us to new possibilities for the spaces in our church, and may help us determine the best way to increase acces-

sibility, ensure physical and emotional safety, and enhance spiritual growth. All this is in preparation for the congregational vote to authorize the next projects at the annual meeting on May 5.

IMPORTANT DATES:

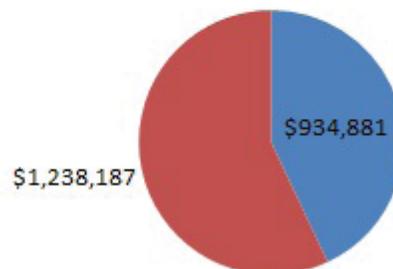
Sunday, March 10, 9:00 a.m.:
Congregational Conversation

Saturday, Apr. 6, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.:
Seeing Our Building as Ministry

Sunday, May 5, 11:15 a.m.:
Annual Meeting

Pledge status as of 2-28-13 Current pledge total: \$2,173,067

■ Payments received ■ Not yet received



Preserve our past. Inspire our future.

The Reach and Renew Campaign seeks to **renew our health** by focusing on the congregation's worship, missions, and programs; to **renew our hospitality** by encouraging the use of our space by outside groups; and to **renew our home** by replacing the heating system and making other upgrades in our building.



Work Group Proposals		
Space Utilization	Priority 1: repair/rebuild front steps	\$128,000
	Priority 2: office relocations	\$172,000
	Priority 3: Chapel, Student Lounge, Pews Kitchen renovation	\$54,000 - \$94,000
	Priority 4: refurbish big kitchen	\$100,000 - \$160,000

Above left: During the Sunday service on January 13, members placed dots to indicate their ten highest-ranked proposals among those suggested by the six work groups; also included on the posters were other ideas raised during the Congregational Conversations in 2012. Each proposal came with a rough estimate of its potential cost. On the morning of Saturday, January 19, members of Executive Council and leaders of the Reach and Renew campaign met in the Fellowship Room to consider the results of the congregation's priority-setting exercise. Moderator Sue Jones and Moderator-elect Tom Rickner had taken the poster board sheets filled by the congregation (such as the one above right), collated the dots, and asked the assembled group to rank them again; then there was further discussion regarding which projects were essential and/or important rather than simply nice to have. Interim Associate Conference Minister Kent Ulery (below, standing) facilitated the morning's activities. Much work remains to be done to pare down the list!



Help make R&R decisions on these dates:
Sun., Mar 10, 9 a.m.—Congregational Conversation
Sat., Apr. 6, 1-2:30 p.m.—“Seeing Our Building as Ministry”
Sun., May 5, 11:15 a.m.—Annual Meeting