

REACH and RENEW RECAP

Congregation approves partial allocation of funds



Moderator Sue Jones responded to a question from Fred Wileman during discussion of the allocation of Reach and Renew funds on May 5. An amendment from the floor that would have added \$100,000 in support of membership renewal was referred to relevant committees with a request for a fall report.

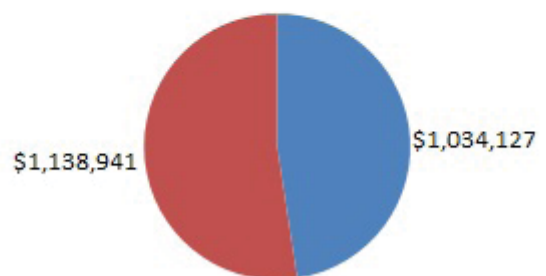
At the Annual Meeting on May 5, the congregation approved the allocation of \$173,000 from Reach & Renew funds towards the following proposals:

- \$25,000 for membership renewal over 5 years
- \$50,000 for Prison Ministry at \$10,000/year for 5 years
- \$50,000 for Green Building Priority Package 1
- \$3,000 for refurbishing the Youth Room
- \$35,000 for organ and piano repairs
- \$10,000 for the hiring of an architect and space consultant to work with the church to develop more detailed proposals related to reconfiguration and refurbishment of interior and exterior space.

Decisions on the use of more than \$800,000 in remaining funds may be informed by insights gleaned during an April 6 workshop titled “Seeing Your Building as Ministry” (see next page).

Pledge status as of 5-31-13 Current pledge total: \$2,173,067

■ Payments received ■ Not yet received



Did you know?

If you are 70½ years old or more, you may donate funds tax-free from your IRA to the church. Congress extended this option through 2013, but it may not be renewed. Consult with your tax advisor to see if this opportunity is best for you.

Preserve our past. Inspire our future.

The 5-year 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.



On Saturday, April 6, 2013, a workshop by Susan Eaton Mendenhall titled “Seeing Your Building as Ministry” focused on the ways our building may be enhancing or discouraging ministry from happening. Ms. Mendenhall (gesturing, above right) led participants around the church to point out how our spaces might better support spiritual formation, community building, and hospitality. She suggested that our sign (above left) could be more effective if it were less busy, and noted that the imposing but crumbling front steps (below) could prove a barrier to participation. Members reported that the workshop opened them to new possibilities for the spaces in our church, including ways in which we might increase accessibility, ensure physical and emotional safety, and enhance spiritual growth.



Video footage from Susan Eaton Mendenhall's tour around the church is posted at www.firstcongmadison.org.