

**BELOW IS THE MOTION (IN BOLD) TO BE VOTED ON BY PROFESSING MEMBERS AFTER EACH WORSHIP SERVICE ON SUNDAY, APRIL 24. YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO VOTE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE OF FUMC!**

**Motion: *The Church Council of First UMC, Gastonia, moves to carry out a capital campaign in early 2017 for the purpose of funding new construction, while also addressing security needs, repairs, and upgrades to the existing campus assets, the scope of which will be determined by the success of the capital campaign.***

*(The motion comes from a standing committee of the church and needs no second. We will have discussion. Below are some statements that may help guide our discussion)*

How did we get here? About three years ago, a Long Range Planning Committee was formed to consider the long range needs of our church. Mike Moyer led this group and talked with every group, individuals on committees, or staff member associated with our church. This followed the renovation of the Theatre and led to the renovation of the Family Life Center, and the Greene House Youth Center in the Wesley Center. David met with 15 neighborhood groups last summer to talk about our vision as a church. On January 6, we had a church-wide “dream night” with the architects to come up with a plan. It was clear from that plan that we had main priorities: A main entrance/gathering area, Security, Take care of water issues and other structural concerns in the main building. The presented conceptual plan allows for those priorities to be addressed.

- The stated motion is the ONLY thing that can be considered, according to the purpose of this called Church Conference.
- Since this motion is being voted on after each worship service, it may not be amended on the day of the Church Conference. This is in fairness to each voting segment, so that everyone is voting on the exact same thing.
- The Finance Committee has recommended, and Church Council has approved, securing the services of Alan Wildes with Generis - a fund raising company. Alan will help us with a fall 2016 stewardship campaign and then help us with a Capital Campaign in early 2017. Executing the contract will depend upon this vote.
- A “yes” vote is not voting on replacing the pews in the Chapel, or specific colors or furnishings, or landscaping plans. There will be further discussion on all details prior to any construction. You are only voting on the concept of the plans presented and your church conducting a capital campaign. The details will be worked out.
- If we vote to proceed, Church Council will appoint a Building / Capital Funds Committee that will guide this process. They will be responsive to the wishes of the congregation and will continue the practice of seeking input from the entire congregation.
- No construction or further plans will begin until we complete a Capital Campaign.
- Why wait until 2017 to do the campaign? Several reasons... first, we want to be sure that we have a good commitment to our budget. We want to take the time and use Alan’s expertise to help us with a stewardship campaign. Secondly, we want to have time to answer questions about the plan, talk about it, and to perfect the plan before we begin fundraising. It took us three years to formulate the conceptual plans and we want to take as much care as we can to answer all questions leading up to actually beginning the project.
- Finance and Church Council both agree that we will not build something we cannot afford; meaning the results of our capital campaign will determine the extent to which we build.
- Your vote may be “yes”, “no”, or “abstain”. The vote will be by a show of hands, and will be counted.