

## ATONEMENT REBUILD UPDATE

Congregation,

Invariably, things may seem to move slower during the initiation of projects, and this one is no exception. In reality, Atonement's team that was put together to marshal this rebuild have all been working very hard on a number of aspects to drive it forward. And I'll just say it. They are incredible and it has been my pleasure to work with them.

Now that a GC has been identified and approved, we have shifted our short-term focus to address the following aspects of our rebuilding project:

1. First, an agreed upon contract from Belt Engineering
2. Second, permits for a work start from Pasco County, and
3. Third, financial assistance from FEMA and the ELCA Mission Investment Fund

So where are we??

We just received a proposal from Belt Engineering to prepare design documents with enough details so that we can obtain a building permit for the storm damage repair. This proposal is currently under review for signature. Once Belt completes the design documents, they will be filing for the necessary permits.

This past week we met with our FEMA Project Manager for the first time, and we will continue to work with him on a weekly basis to ensure that our application to FEMA for financial reimbursement covers as much as possible. To obtain FEMA monetary assistance, we must complete a damage report that includes not only things that were damaged, but what steps we have taken to mitigate damage. There are strict time deadlines for entering information. Only items and actions identified in the damage report will be considered for reimbursement. We don't yet have any understanding of how FEMA will determine which items are ultimately eligible for reimbursement or at what

level. What we do know is that FEMA only considers paying for work after it is actually completed. Which leads to the next topic.... financial assistance in the meantime, i.e. Cash flow.....

We have been in contact with ELCA's Mission Investment Fund (MIF) to apply for a construction loan to furnish the ongoing money required during construction. We are meeting this week with Jerry Johnson, Regional Director of ELCA's MIF to discuss and complete an application for a loan to support the ongoing rebuilding effort.

In the coming weeks, we will be looking to finalize all major rebuilding details and finalize the rebuilding contract. We will begin reviewing a variety of interior/exterior design elements to be incorporated into the project. In that regard, we are fortunate to have the assistance of Cathy DiLeo, from DiLeo Design, who has agreed to volunteer her expertise in interior design. In addition to her design creds, she is trained and certified in color and color psychology. So, the next time you speak with Don and Diana Christman, let them know how grateful we all are that they called their daughter, Cathy, and asked if she would help us.

One other item. We would really like a volunteer to assist the team in seeking out any and all funding opportunities to cover some of the costs of our rebuild. I remain hopeful that I can announce that we have filled this position in my next update.

Blessings,

Walter Frank

Rebuild Our Future Chairperson