

## Building Update – June 2019



Those of you who have been involved with our building project for the last 5 years will know that matching what we need to build with what we can afford has been a real challenge. Our first design of the building came in with an estimate that was more than twice what we could afford, and resulted in our having to go back and completely redesign the building so that we could build the first phase with the monies we expected to have available. We have been anticipating a build budget of \$2.2 million. At present, we are experiencing two issues that are impacting us negatively. The first is that the detailed project estimates have revealed a price increase for the project to close to \$2.8 million. We are working with our Construction Manager to try and find ways that we can reduce these costs, but it appears almost certain that we are going to have to reduce the size of the project once again. The second problem is we do not have the \$2.2 million that we were expecting. At this time, with funds received to date, committed funds still to come in, and the mortgage of \$800,000, we have just under \$2 million available.

So far, we have found a number of ways to build the same building at a lower cost, such as recycling the existing stone, using less costly windows and doors, finding cheaper ways to address our water storage issues and not installing some features in the parking lot which are only required should we ever decide to pave, which we currently have no plans to do. These things can save us between \$200-300,000. This alone is not enough to close the gap between the available funds and the cost to build. So, in an attempt to get to where we need to get, we have asked for a price to erect the new building and complete all the exterior work, including the new parking lot, but to finish the interior work on our own with volunteers as the funding becomes available. I hope to have this information available by the end of the week, which will then inform our strategy for how we will proceed. As you can imagine, there is lots of action in the background!

In the meantime, there is a lot of great stuff happening. The parking lot is progressing very well, and in fact, some of us have even parked on it. Our volunteers have done an amazing job of removing the stone from the outside of the building, and it is on pallets ready to be reinstalled when we get to that stage.

As we told you in our last update, Matt Boyd will be leading a prayer team specifically for this project. They are meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month at 6.30 PM. Everyone is welcome to join in, and is encouraged to contact Matt in order to become part of this effort.

We recognize how important it is that we try and keep the lines of communication open throughout this project. We will be issuing a monthly update, such as this one. We will also be conducting a monthly Q&A session between the services. The next such session will be held in the youth room on the second floor, at 10.20 AM on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June. If you have any questions about the project, you are encouraged to attend. However, you do not have to wait for those sessions to get your questions answered. In between sessions, you can contact Keith Mombourquette at 519-379-7574.