

Columbarium and Garden of Memory and Hope Background and Issues

Recommendation from Church Board approved by congregation on January 24, 2016

The congregation requests the Church Board to develop proposals (1) for expanding the Columbarium to meet future needs and (2) for a second Living Stones project. These proposals should be brought back for congregational action at the April 2016 congregational meeting.

(1) The Columbarium expansion should be self-funded through the sale of niches. The Church Board is encouraged to survey the congregation about individual and family plans to use and purchase niches. The Church Board should continue to work with the Deacon Commission and Facilities Committee to develop a workable plan to present to the congregation.

(2) The Church Board should develop a proposal for Living Stones II that will include paying off the internal debt of approximately \$80,000 from the original Living Stones project and focus on improvements to the main entrance on the west side of the church. Additional projects such as exterior lighting and funding of other facility needs should also be included. The Church Board should test the feasibility of a \$250,000 project over a 2 or 3-year period and recommend a minimum amount of financial commitments and a minimum amount of cash in hand before the project begins.

Columbarium Recommendation from Church Board Approved by congregation on April 24, 2016

The Church Board recommends the following motion:

That the congregation approve expanding the present columbarium by building a curved columbarium courtyard with 432 niches on the north side of the church at an initial construction estimate of \$130,000. Additional estimated costs for purchasing and installing niches in six phases is \$175,000. These costs will be covered fully by the sale of niches which will resume immediately. The Church Board will determine the timing of the various phases and initial construction of the columbarium expansion may not begin for a year or more.

NOTES

- Voting to expand the present columbarium means that BCMC can immediately resume selling niches. Since all niches in BCMC's columbarium are sold, families can currently purchase niches only when need is immediate.
- The north columbarium site and the curved style were chosen for aesthetic reasons. It seemed to be the most beautiful option, offering the best meditative environment. It allows for memorial plaques to be mounted on the wall for those being interred elsewhere but desiring to be remembered at BCMC. It offers landscaping opportunities including a butterfly garden. Survey returns encouraged long-term planning; the number of niches provides this.
- BCMC would purchase each section of niches over a period of time.
- All costs would be covered fully by sale of niches.
- Sale of niches and cash flow would determine construction timing.
- The Columbarium Fund has some money available to apply to construction.