



ST. MATTHEW'S  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Revive to Thrive*

Friends,

From the beginning of my work with you as your Lead Pastor, I have been encouraging you to pray big prayers and to dream big dreams. I am thoroughly convinced that even though we are living in a worldwide pandemic, God has big plans for the future of St. Matthew's. Plans that I believe are bigger and richer than our past. Years ago, God placed in the hearts of the people of St. Matthews a vision of a new Sanctuary and additional educational space. That vision has served us well for nearly thirty years and now it is time to invest for the next thirty years. St. Matthew's has an opportunity to reach out to those around us with the life-changing message of hope that is available to all in Jesus Christ.

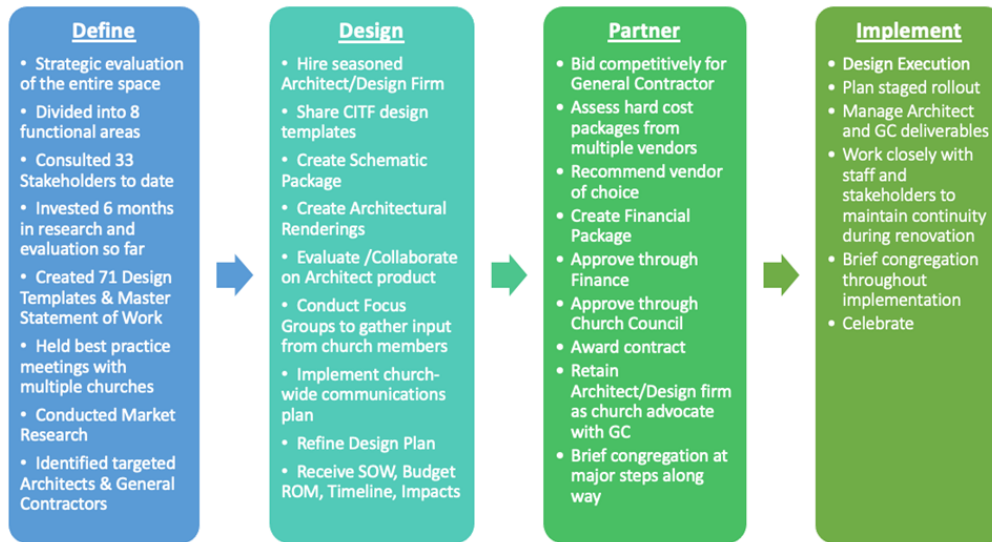
It is my calling as your pastor to continue to enhance and grow St. Matthew's, specifically the Ministry, Missions, Programs and Community Engagement that are key pillars for the success of our church. Our facility is an essential asset that supports these pillars, provides our church home, and lays the foundation for us to grow the mission and ministry of the church.

With that vision in mind, the leadership and Church Council formed a task force to evaluate the form and function of our facility and develop a plan to ensure that this critical asset best supports the mission and ministry of St. Matthew's. We have assembled a talented group of members led by Shawn Guth, hand selected for their diverse experience throughout many areas of the church and asked them to examine and evaluate how our facility can best meet the demands of our church family and our community.

Over the past six months, the Church Interiors Task Force (CITF) has been hard at work defining an evaluation process, engaging stakeholders and staff in detailed discussions and determining which areas of the current environment are functioning effectively and which would benefit from improvement. They are gathering insights and feedback on how each space might be enhanced and what new elements would help it function more effectively in support of our vision. The task force has divided the building into eight areas - sanctuary, narthex and commons, staff offices, information hallway, music, social hall, youth wing, nursery, adult wing and weekday school - and met with key stakeholders in each area.

Along the way, the CITF has developed the theme "Revive to Thrive" which encapsulates not only reviving our physical space but is also about reviving our spiritual commitment. It is imperative that together we determine how our facility can best serve the needs, and drive the growth, of our church. Market research indicates that nearly twenty other churches just in our neighboring community have undertaken the same process, delighted in the opportunity to re-examine their vision and church facility and move together toward an inspiring future.

The CITF has highlighted this endeavor in phases. Each phase follows a step-by-step process to delivering a logical, methodical outcome. Here is a detailed look at the four-phased process that we will move through together in the coming year:



The CITF has currently completed the Define phase and has shared their progress to date with Church Council. During the coming Design phase, CITF looks forward to sharing their findings with the church via focus groups and church wide communications.

This is a very exciting time in the life of the church, and we are eager to continue to share our progress every step of the way! Together we are building the foundation for growth on which the church will Thrive!

Sincerely,

*Pastor Mike Plasters*

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