

February 6, 2022

New Communications / Technology Platform for First Congregational Church of Hanover

→ **Any Other Business Topic: Motion for Annual Congregational Meeting**

I make a motion to allocate up to \$20,000 from the Restricted Fair Fund for the purpose of developing and implementing an upgraded, more secure, and technologically up-to-date Communications and Technology platform for the church. The planning work for this Communications and Technology initiative will be completed by the recently formed ad hoc task force that includes Rev. Johnston and is headed by Bob Sigsby. Plans will be shared with the Trustees and with the Church Cabinet. Once the final plans and associated budget is agreed to by these groups, work can begin if the budget does not exceed \$20,000. The final plan for this initiative will also be shared with the congregation via written communications, updates at Coffee Hour and other venues such as after church luncheons (depending on how COVID is progressing). **Approving this budget framework now will speed the work of the team and provide confidence that their volunteer time and dedication will yield tangible results.**

The focus areas for the \$20,000 budget will include (1) Communication Technology, (2) Worship Technology, (3) Building Technology, and (4) Office Technology. Significant improvements in infrastructure, capabilities, security, content, engagement, and overall communication / messaging are clearly needed. This has been expressed in prior years, by Reverends Stroshine, Terry, Aaberg and Johnston. Our new Senior Pastor has expressed an ardent desire to fix this gap. Our 2021 Board of Trustees has also flagged some of these safety / security issues as key needs for 2022/2023.

This workstream is critical for our church as we reemerge from the pandemic and work to rebuild and grow the church. I believe we must kick-start this process, allocate funds and move quickly to address these open communication and technology issues. Please support this motion. Thank you.

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Additional Detail (initial items for the ad hoc task force and Rev. Peter to address):

(1) Communication Technology – upgrade website and social media presence, TV (education), Zoom platform and appropriate hardware, e-blast, and e-newsletters

(2) Worship Technology – sanctuary display screens, sound system, sanctuary internet, Town TV Channel, YouTube channel, Live Streaming, improved interactivity

(3) Building Technology – security systems, fire alarm systems, security cameras, external controls for temperature and lighting, door keypads controls, overall monitoring of access to church campus buildings especially Riley Hall

(4) Office Technology – integrated computer and phone systems, cloud-based storage, updated printer / copier, updated and most secure systems to support on-line pledging, targeted giving, special donations, etc., cybersecurity system for internet, email, and file storage needs.

Submitted by James Hoyes at the February 6, 2022, Annual Congregational Meeting of First Congregational Church of Hanover