

Lobby Improvement Project

If you are a guest today, would you bear with us as we handle some important family business? Feel free to listen and appreciate our straight forward way of handling these matters. If you consider this your church home, please give ear.

I am most grateful for the history of good stewardship demonstrated by Lancaster Alliance Church. This church has a legacy of generous even sacrificial giving. We have also managed our money carefully and been frugal in how we have spent the funds entrusted to us. That generous attitude is also reflected in the way we use our church building to the fullest. Each week the building is used by hundreds of people. There is rarely a day that something is not happening within these walls. That is a great testimony.

The maintenance and upkeep of our facilities is also an expression of our stewardship. That stewardship requires ongoing investments in the building. Our facilities are in good condition with one exception: the lobby. Our leadership team and the trustees are recommending that the refurbishing of the lobby be our next major project. Here are some of the reasons why this needs to be considered.

1. It's time for an update. The lobby has been relatively unchanged since the building was dedicated over 26 years ago. The carpet is worn, the ceiling is discolored, the paint is faded, and the furnishings are sparse and well-used. Our capacity to host the events already scheduled in the space is limited.
2. We want to create a welcoming, comfortable environment that is easy to navigate for new people. The lobby is often the place of first impression when people enter our building. Our current lobby does not convey to new people the warm and caring church we are. We can do so much better in making those initial impressions positive by a modest updating to our lobby.
3. We want to develop a more functional lobby area for ministry. We value participation, group interaction and hospitality which call for a more flexible space for events and gatherings. The lobby space is our largest meeting area after the sanctuary. There is great potential to maximize this space if we invest in updating this area.

We have evaluated many options for improving this space. While considering the many good ideas, we have laid out a modest proposal that takes what we have and maximizes the space at a reasonable price. It includes new flooring, fresh paint and trim, new lighting and ceiling, improved beverage service capacity, optimized traffic flow as well as new furniture and directional signage. The projected cost is not to exceed \$250,000 and our hope is that we can do the project for much less.

Already, leadership has pledged over \$70,000 towards the project. The eastern PA district of the C&MA has given us a grant of \$10,000 towards the project. To date we have pledges amounting to \$83,120 from 42 families. \$34,428 has already been given. That is a good start.

God has provided before in dramatic ways. Over the last 10 years, we have invested \$1,129,200 in capital improvement projects and remain debt free. We have completed multiple major projects which required the raising of additional funds. We replaced the ceilings in all the **basement class rooms**, renovated the **kitchen**, replaced **sound equipment** in the auditorium, demolished and landscaped the **barn property**, and replaced **our entire roof**. Just this year we replaced all of our **locks** with a master key system, upgraded **technology in our classrooms**, and completed the **carpeting and painting** of the children's ministry areas on both floors and the stairways on both ends of the halls. All were completed without borrowing money.

There will always be competing requests for funds but at some point we face a need which is both urgent and important. The lobby project is one such opportunity. It will outlast many of us and will be a gift to the generations to come. Let's join hands and undertake this next step of faith to the glory of God. If you have not already done so, please consider making a pledge or a gift to this effort before the end of the year. Our hope is to have pledges in by the end of the year so we can begin the process.

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