



Growing In God, Living in Love

Compilation of Ideas from Consistory and Congregational Meetings And Consistory's Current Action Plan

June 2022

Ideas Mentioned at All Meetings

1. Rent or sell Heritage House
2. Notify groups who use the buildings that we need to meet expenses and will have to begin charging for building use
3. Move to part-time, limited, or no pastoral support
4. Talk with Schoharie Presbyterian about joining/sharing expenses
5. Talk with Lutheran church about shared space/shared admin expenses
6. Talk with Middleburgh Reformed about sharing worship resources

Additional Ideas from Congregational Meetings

1. Get more people to come to church
2. Have dinners to raise money (BBQs, other types)
3. Use one space only; reduce costs of other building
4. Encourage regular giving to resume; discussion about options such as personal banking arrangements for automatically sending check, Vanco and paypal that church subscribes to. Personal banking option preferred because of no cost to church; the other two are also available, If anyone wants information on using any of these options, Consistory members can assist.
5. Remind the community of this church's importance and the community and long history of service, then encourage donations.
6. Use social media to explain our circumstance and ask for donations.
7. Look for grants, perhaps for new ministry
8. Rent fellowship hall as an event space
9. Have congregational members volunteer to mow grounds, clean, plow snow, etc
10. Send informational letters to congregation with pledge forms, asking people to respond so we have a more realistic idea of potential income

Ideas from Consistory not mentioned in above lists

1. Freeze window fundraising activities and fund
2. Talk with members to ask them to prayerfully consider any increase in their giving that may be possible, or to resume giving regularly if they have stopped.
3. Let buildings go and worship in homes or other spaces or by zoom
4. Limit space used to reduce building overhead

5. Get outside expertise: from Classis for guidance; from financial (Putnams); from real estate person re: rent/sell potential

Consistory's Current Plan of Action

I Information Gathering

- A. Classis: what is required? What guidance is available?
- B. Develop financial timeline (how long will our reserves last)
- C. Send informational letter with pledge request then collate responses
- D. Consult real estate person re: potential of renting or selling buildings
- E. Contact local churches re: their attendance, financial stability, interest in sharing

II. Immediate Action Steps

- F. Freeze window fundraising
- G. Consolidate lists of ideas/information from congregational meetings and distribute to congregation: asap
- H. Send letter by June 17th
- I. Meet with classis representative (Bob Hoffman) by end of month
- J. Consult with Tom Putnam (FAM representatives) for advice and options by end of June
- K. Develop next action steps from information gathered by end of June
- L. Add action steps to financial timeline (to include additional information gathering and meeting with local churches, real estate person, etc) by end of June
- M. Keep congregation informed: ongoing