

Ministry Moment Update – June 12, 2005

We, the Elders, want to keep you as up to date as we can. I would like to take this opportunity to briefly report on the events of this past week. (Our Elders meeting on Tuesday evening lasted about 4 hours.)

As you know, last week we reported that we have decided to slow down the decision-making process after getting your thoughts and counsel, both in the Wednesday joint flock and in personal conversations and e-mails. We are desiring to be wise and God-honoring in how we move forward on this project. Therefore, we have taken a number of actions as a result:

1. We distributed a survey designed to help us gain a better understanding of what you value in relation to the Wedge Project and remodeling of the current auditorium/lobby area. We are taking these surveys very seriously and are respecting them as wise counsel from you. These surveys are due no later than June 26th. However, we would appreciate your returning them as soon as possible. The contracted price for the Wedge Project has a 30 day limit (July 2). If we postpone the Wedge decision past that date, then Bon Builders will have to get another quote to bring the costs current. We are going to be weighing the results of this survey heavily in order to make informed decisions going forward. There are more copies of the survey on the back table and it is available on the church website. There is a box on the back table for survey collection, or you can place them in the offering baskets, if that is more convenient. If you have any questions about the survey, the Wedge, or the auditorium/lobby remodel, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Elders or Tadd Dieringer.
2. We have decided to split the affirmation process into two separate votes. After talking with you, we perceived that there may be those who have different opinions on the Wedge and the remodel projects. Therefore, we thought it wise to proceed by separating the affirmation process into two projects.
3. The first project, the Wedge, has a not-to-exceed bid price of \$698,432. This involves the building of the Wedge itself, all site preparation for all three phases, finished parking lot for all three phases, changing the roof design over the Wedge for structural integrity and mounting of the HVAC units, and finishing the eastern wall for exterior exposure. We are anticipating taking this affirmation vote on Sunday, July 3rd, one day past the 30 day price guarantee. We are asking Bon Builders to allow us to give them the our answer on July 5th.
4. The second project involves changes to this building. It is not our desire to spend a great amount of money here. But there are some changes that must take place in conjunction with the Wedge. For instance, the current office area will need remodeled for the nursery and toddlers. This frees up room for our junior and senior highers. There are other issues that need to be addressed, as well. This is where your input on the survey will be

- extremely helpful. We are consulting with those ministry leaders who are going to be affected the most in order to get more counsel for wise decisions. The affirmation for this second project will not be until later this summer. We anticipate using the data collected from the surveys in guiding our decisions and recommendations for this project. We need to remind ourselves that we are going to be in this building for a number of years, humanly speaking. We need to make it possible to seat 350 in this auditorium.
5. We have approximately \$55,800 in the Facility Expansion fund and are adding to it every week. These funds are available to reduce the amount of the loan that we will need to procure.
 6. We are earnestly seeking the Lord and His wisdom in these matters. We are asking you to earnestly intercede for us and pray for God to grant us wisdom. We are still asking God to enable us to pay for these projects in cash. And we are asking God to provide the funds that we need to proceed with all three phases in a timely way.
 7. We welcome your thoughts and concerns. We encourage you to use the surveys, flock meetings, and personal conversations with Elders and Tadd Dieringer. The survey is the perfect way to formally submit your concerns and thoughts in writing. I can't speak for the other Elders, but I know that I have a great memory; it's just short. Having a written document helps my great memory.

Finally, the Elders want you to know that this is a growing process for us as Elders as well as for all of us, this body of believers meeting here at the Chapel. We are doing our best to move through the expansion project in an orderly way that reflects humility, integrity, wisdom, and godly discernment at every step. But as you know, we are imperfect jars of clay. We are excited about these possibilities and desire to see buildings that are wrapped around ministries which are striving diligently to pursue our mission through exaltation, edification, and evangelism. Please pray for us as we endeavor to lead well.

As a last note, we plan to publish weekly or bi-weekly updates on our website. This will help those who are not able to be with us on any given Sunday to keep informed of the progress and decisions.