



# The Hamilton Beacon

June 17, 2020

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## THE SESSION/TRUSTEES CONTINUE TO THINK & PLAN

As noted last week, “Developing a Strategy” means we look carefully at the dangers and problems facing us and then ... make the decision to move ahead toward opportunity. It seems best to move forward, confident of God’s grace.

Monday evening, June 15<sup>th</sup>, the Session/Trustees met in Westminster Hall for a second strategy meeting. In our decisions, we are looking for nothing less than the life and health of Hamilton.

### OUR FINANCIAL GIVING

Thank You for your very good response in this past week. At this point, we know we are simply not receiving enough income to sustain us without going into reserve funds.

Preserving these funds - like Major Maintenance Fund - will support repairing the leaking Sanctuary roof, the Sanctuary interior walls, and the lower floor men’s restroom where the walls are disintegrating and mold is growing.

We are applying for a Presbytery Emergency Assistance Grant. But even the full \$5,000, should we receive it, will not cover all our repairs. And so, back we go to the Major Maintenance Fund. We are confident the work will be done.

Again, the Session/Trustees encourages each member to pray about their current level of giving. Our officers have no specific advice except the words of Jesus:

"Give, and it will be given to you;  
a good measure,  
pressed down, shaken together, running over,  
will be put into your lap.  
For the measure you give  
will be the measure you get back in return.

- Luke 6:38

### SELLING THE MANSE

As reported last week, we have decided to sell the manse. This is a long process because we must first separate the manse into its own taxable parcel. It is now part of the total church plot. We have hired Neil Lanzi, a land-use attorney, to guide this process. The terms of the manse sale are "as is." We will not carry the contract. When sold, the funds we receive from the manse will greatly help.

### WESTMINSTER HALL

Westminster Hall presents a unique opportunity for ministry and mission in the community. Right now, the Hall needs trash removal, painting, and deep cleaning left by the Community Play School. We cannot begin until the end of June when our contract with the school is finished. Then, it’s dumpster time! We’ll need “all hands on deck.” We’ll tell you when the “dumpster days” celebration will be held.

## A COMMUNITY CENTER IN WESTMINSTER HALL???

The critical question is: How can we use this building as an asset for congregation and community? One idea is gaining traction: What if Westminster Hall became the Hamilton Community Center for the neighborhood? We would make an indelible contribution to the community, one that would also mean a new life and mission for our congregation.

Regina Lansinger, Director of the Hamilton-Lauraville Main Street Revitalization Program, is suggesting that a group of community leaders gather to discuss this idea. The Session/Trustees have named Debbie Bowen, Dave Greenwood and Jack Hodges as our representatives. No meeting date has been set; we'll keep everyone posted.

## WHEN Will WE WORSHIP TOGETHER?

The truth is, we have no idea. The safety of everyone is our main concern and while things may well be opening up, those receiving a positive virus test are increasing. We'll keep you posted!



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