

## **Spirit & Space Team Report – Space Objectives**

The Spirit & Space Team was charged by Session to determine how we can continue to be a welcoming community by empowering the structural, visual, and practical design of the space we call our church home. We completed our formation of Space objectives and presented them to Session in its May meeting. We thought we would share those objectives with you in this edition of the Tydings and how we arrived at them.

The Book of Order speaks of created space for worship as locations arranged in such a way to “invite and express God’s presence “while recognizing that God cannot “be confined in any one place.” Through listening, studying, visits to other churches, and discussion our Team established the following objectives, all the while cognizant of the fact that we must also provide resources to keep the building in good repair:

- “Create a worship space that fully embraces, facilitates and reflects the way we now come before the Almighty as a community of faith.” Specifically, in our efforts we should maintain a sense of tradition, but also reflect a forward looking timelessness.
- “Provide access (exterior and interior) for persons with disabilities that preserves the historical character of the church and, to the extent feasible and practical that allows persons with disabilities the same experience indoors and outdoors as able bodied persons.” We should attempt to add accessibility features in all areas required by building codes or as desired to enhance ministry services.

- “Establish a reception area that is convenient and inviting for most who enter the building and that transitions into administrative and professional office areas.” Specifically, we should attempt to define where the main entrance to our church should be, as well as link the reception area and office to the main entrance.
- “Develop the outdoor space surrounding the church so that it signals our openness to the community and invites them in to the ministry of our church.” Specifically, consider carving out adequate green space that is visually appealing and inviting to the community for gardening or gathering. Define sufficient properly sized handicapped parking spaces that are in close proximity to entrances with easy access into the building, etc.

Members of the Spirit & Space Team realize that our church’s ability to accomplish these objectives will be defined by the ministries we are able to support, and the resources (time, talent and treasures) we are willing and able to commit.

Tom Okonak