**Facility Expansion Open Forum Meetings July 12 (Sun), 13 (Mon), 16 (Thur)**

1. Open with prayer

2. Proposed plan for meetings:

 a. Prayer and introduce presenters (2 min)

b. Review of facility expansion planning process (5 min)

 c. Review of current status and projections for our congregation and ministry (5 min)

 d. Review of current space needs (5 min)

 e. Review of proposed expansion’s impact on the proclamation of the gospel/souls (5 min)

 f. Review of the funding plan, giving projections, cost impact on members (5 min)

 g. Review of why we are proposing expansion: Glory of God/salvation of souls (2 min)

 g. Questions, concerns, suggestions (30 min)

 h. Close with prayer

3. Close with prayer

**B. A REVIEW OF OUR FACILITY EXPANSION PLANING PROCESS**

**WELS Parish Assistance Recommendations July 2004 327 comm / 448 bapt souls**

“Add staff first, then space. Expect to develop an expanding program of ministry, with staffing adequate to lead and manage each area of ministry.” “A church that intends to grow by reaching out to the community should consider how additional space may bring in people from the community.” “Find additional land and purchase it as soon as possible.” “Parking is already a problem- expanding it is vital to your continued growth. You do need space in your ministry facility. However, it is premature to build until you have created your vision for the future. You will have to determine what your staffing and ministry needs will be.”

“Understand that this is not a small church. More than 75% of WELS congregations are smaller than SOTH by average worship attendance (215). ‘Acting your size’ and asking God to bless your ministry with continued growth will be critical to the future.”

“This church has incredible potential to reach many more souls with the gospel. SOTH can serve as a model congregation for the synod. What would keep that from happening is: 1. Members becoming too comfortable with the size and style of current ministry and complacent about carrying out the great commission. 2. A structure and style of ministry that lacks the organization and purpose of reaching and serving a large number of people. Please always remember whose church this is, who governs the universe, who gave his life to redeem the world and wants all people to be save.”

**2005-2010 Five Year Mission/Vision Plan 2005 344 comm / 461 bapt souls**

We developed a five year ministry plan that included an emphasis on “life stages”, family, youth and teen, and support ministries for the struggling/hurting; and also outreach events targeting children and families. We determined to add part or full time staff to coordinate specific areas of ministry and to develop a comprehensive plan to eliminate facility constraints. We identified these space needs:

1. Parking space – Expect at least 30% more worship attendance by 2010

2. Worship space- See 1 above

3. Meeting space-

* + Advanced adult BC (40) intermediate adult BC or BDC II (20-30) or BDC I (20-30)
	+ Pre-K/K (20), 1st-2nd (20), 3rd-4th (20), 5th-6th (20), 7th-8th (20), Teens (10-15)
	+ 2 other meeting areas for 15-20 people
	+ Fellowship- Kitchen, serving, and seating area for at least 300 people.
	+ A facility that allows a smooth flow from worship to after-worship fellowship.
	+ Office space- At least one more office/counseling area for additional staff and workroom
	+ Storage- Will need to grow proportionally with the rest of the facilities
	+ Library- More room will be needed if we expect it to grow
	+ Soccer/softball field/basketball court (in parking lot or a gym) to fully optimize proposed sports camps, summer afterschool programs
	+ Space for pre/school/daycare should SOTH decide to pursue that

**Ministry Plan 2006-2007 358 comm / 474 bapt souls**

We checked into the possibility of purchasing the 7.9 acres immediately to the west and determined it was too costly. We paid off debt from the 1993 expansion. We evaluated onsite class options and remodeling of the fellowship hall, determining both were too costly. Off-site class meeting areas were explored.

**2007-2008 Staffing and Facility Recommendation 363 comm / 474 bapt souls**

**Staffing Recommendation:** A second pastor would enable us to better serve the needs of all our members, result in a more manageable pastoral workload shared by two pastors, enable us to develop the key ministries identified in our ministry plan (e.g. youth and family ministry, senior ministry, and support ministry) and enhance or expand certain areas (e.g. worship and fellowship), and bring the gospel to more people for the salvation of souls.

**Facility Recommendation:** While we have a warm and friendly congregation, we do not have a easily accessible fellowship space for socializing and after-service fellowship. People traffic in the narthex does not flow well and results in bottlenecks. If we add staff, we will need additional office space.We have 475 baptized members and a fellowship hall that seats 90. We need a fellowship hall that seats at least 300 and that could be a multi-use facility. We need additional storage. We need space for at least 8 classrooms of 15-20 people per class. Other considerations include a music room, space for small group counseling, space for the food bank, a conference room, athletic fields, and areas to accommodate a pre-school, day care, or other outreach ministries we choose to develop.

We recommend a three phase expansion project after adding staff. **Phase 1:** Construction of a fellowship space that meets our needs and allows for a “welcome center” for visitors, adequate offices, and additional storage. **Phase 2:** Construction of a large multi-use fellowship hall and expanded sanctuary. **Phase 3:** Renovation of current fellowship hall into classrooms and miscellaneous needed rooms, pre-school, etc., and creation of athletic fields.The three phase concept would allow us to expand in affordable steps, based on prioritized needs.

**Ministry Plans for 2009-10 423 comm / 517 bapt souls**

Parking lot was finished in 2009

**Ministry Plans 2010-11 426 comm / 521 bapt souls**

1. Call a second pastor in the spring of 2011 in order to:

* To be more available for and proactive in personal gospel ministry
* Offer additional Bible classes geared toward specific groups in the congregation and on specific themes, to help God’s people encourage one another and reach out to the lost
* Provide the leadership necessary to expand our ministry and outreach, especially in the areas of family, support, and senior ministry
* Ultimately bring the gospel to more people

2. Proceed with development of facility expansion plans and costs.

* Determine a place for and costs of an office for a second pastor.
* Develop a facility expansion plan that addresses current and future space needs in phases.
* Develop conceptual drawings with estimated costs by early 2011.
* Begin fund-raising in 2011-2012, with a focus on raising a predetermined and significant amount of the funds needed before starting construction.

**2012 447 comm / 535 bapt souls**

The focus in 2012 was on transitioning to two pastor ministry. Key questions for facility expansion were developed by the Stewardship Board and an update of space needs was done.

**2013 444 comm / 533 bapt souls**

Leaders reviewed with members our goals to add staff first, then space. Leaders provided statistic data and projections for giving, membership, and worship attendance, and also walked through a sketch of how facility expansion needed to grow our ministry might look and likely cost ($1.3 million). A sample plan for funding was presented, reflecting a 30% down payment and a loan for $910,000 resulting in a $5,058/month loan payment (assuming 4.5% interest rate). A proposed timeline for facility expansion was presented to the congregation. Questions and feedback were sought.

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**2014 450/551 229**

Our Facility Expansion Committee interviewed architects, chose Mayotte Group, and began working with them to produce drawings. A Facility Finance Team produced a funding formula and fund raising plan.

**C. REVIEW OF CURRENT STATUS OF CONGREGATION AND PROJECTIONS**

**1. How have our ministry plans, giving, and budgeting evolved and what can we learn from it?**

**Year Income                Expenses Budget Membership Worship Att**

**2007/2008          $313,125.08       $294,134.29 $303,218.00 386/484 228**

*Roof replaced for $23,000- paid off by member gifts.*

**2008/2009          $276,264.92       $300,676.21 $315,807.00 395/492 233**

*Parking lot built in spring; funded in part by member loans.*

**2009/2010          $309,831.81       $257,504.38 $280,000.00 423/517 237**

*Take 5/Give 5 offering plan to pay down parking lot debt and demonstrate ability to call 2nd pastor.*

**2010/2011          $322,669.29       $310,666.62 $342,000.00 426/521 244**

*Established 272,000 budget + 70,000 to pay off parking lot debt/demonstrate ability to call 2nd pastor.*

**2011/2012          $328,028.71       $306,512.23 $328,077.00 447/535 243**

*Pastor Tullberg called and begins service at SOTH.*

**2012/2013          $334,039.95       $327,318.74 $326,809.00 446/534 244**

**2013/2014          $339,644.37       $322,788.38 $326,025.06 444/533 221**

**2014/2015 (est) $323,419.20 $318,259.00 $343,419.20 450/551 229**

* Roof replaced in 08: $23,000 / Parking Lot done in 09: $150,000 / Pastor Tullberg called in 11: $65,000/yr. Conclusion: The Lord has helped us successfully take on several financial challenges in the last 7 years. His grace has certainly blessed us when we took on these challenges.
* Since 2010 Offerings have averaged $329,560. Expenses have averaged 317,108. Membership has increased all but one year (11-12) to 450/551 to date. Worship attendance has averaged 236. Conclusion: God has enabled us to fund our ministry year to year and blessed us with numerical growth. However, lower worship numbers overall and the high number of those whose worship patterns declined by 5 Sundays or more from 2013-2014 (84 members) is a concern.

**2. What is the picture as we end fiscal year 2014-15 compared to 2013-2014?**

* 5 adult & 10 child baptisms /8 adult confirmations, 4 professions of faith, 11 transfers in from other WELS churches, 8 youth confirmations for a net gain of 14 communicants and 15 baptized souls from one year ago. We are averaging 10 more people at worship per weekend than a year ago.
* Year end 14-15 offerings compared to 13-14: Several personal situations over the past year (moves, illness/death, retirement) have significantly impacted offerings (by an estimated $20-25,000). This shortfall will be offset to some degree (how much to be determined) by the new members from this year. A pattern of declining worship in a significant number of members (84) has likely impacted offerings by an estimated $8-9,000. Encouraging faithful worship is a key 2015-16 initiative in our ministry, not to increase offerings, but so that more people can be blessed through the gospel.

**3. What are the projections for the next five years, given the last five years of membership, worship attendance, and giving data?**

The data would suggest that membership will continue to increase, as we have been blessed with a net gain of 27 adult communicants and 34 baptized souls (children) in the past five years, with slow but steady numerical growth every year except 2012-13.

Declining worship attendance (as a percentage of our members) in the last five years is a concern. However, we are building on efforts from this past year to encourage faithful worship (and Bible Class/Sunday School) attendance as a major initiative for our ministry in 15-16.

Our giving has been relatively stable for the last 4 years as we have pulled out of the recession, fluctuating between 322,669 and 339,644 (a difference of only 5%), which suggests a fairly stable baseline for budgetary planning purposes.

**4. What is the demographic breakdown of our congregation?**

Our congregation demographics break down is below. (Gains in 14-15 in parenthesis)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 0-5 | 21 (+2) |
| 6-11 | 43 (+4) |
| 12-14 | 20  |
| 15-18 | 28 |
| 19-25 | 45 (+1) |
| 26-35 | 42 (+10) |
| 36-45 | 64 (+3) |
| 46-55 | 71 (+3) |
| 56-65 | 53 (+5) |
| 65+ | 62 (+1) |

**D. KEY QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR SPACE NEEDS AND EXPANSION BENEFITS**

Space recommendations are from Lifeway Architects, February 4, 2013 and are found at: <http://www.lifeway.com/Article/church-architecture-rules-thumb-space-dimensions>.

FEC NOTE: We need to square footage for each area of proposed addition from the architects.

**1. Worship Sanctuary**

* ***“Recommended for up to 300 capacity- 15-17 sq. ft. per person”***
* ***“Average minimum space per person, 20 inches width; more realistic 24 inches width.”***
* ***“You can typically expect to max out at 80% capacity. When you get above 80% it’s time to think of adding a new service or finding a new space.”***
* Assuming 5-6 people (20-24 inches) per 10.5 ft. pew and 31 individual chairs, and 4 spaces for seating the disabled by law, we currently seat 185-215 people in our sanctuary.
* At 2,700 total sq. ft. (including altar area) seating is 14.5 sq. ft. per person, assuming 5 people per pew.
* 80% capacity of 185 seats is 148. 80% capacity of 215 is meaning we max out attendance at 150-172 people.
* We have had attendance over 150 at one service 5 times since January 1.
* Our drawings do not increase the sanctuary space, but will allow for adding a 3rd Sunday service and expansion in the future when needed

**2. Narthex/Lobby**

* **Fellowship lobby serving worship center/education space: 15-25 percent of the worship center area.**
* **Note: Plantingchurches.org recommends ½ of worship space** (<http://plantingchurches.org/2012/11/3-reasons-why-the-foyer-is-important-in-a-church-plant-facility/>
* Our current narthex (foyer) is 1,250 sq. ft. That is 46% of the worship space, but a significant amount of that is a hallway where congestion forms, and ours was created to allow for overflow seating for the sanctuary. Our proposed narthex is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_sq. ft. with a better traffic pattern. It also is intentionally large as it will serve as both overflow for the sanctuary and for the fellowship hall.

**3. Children Classroom Space**

* **Nursery: 35 sq ft per child.  350 sq ft is enough space for 10 kids.**
* **Toddlers: 25 sq ft per child.  250 sq ft is enough space for 10 kids.**
* **Elementary: 20 sq ft per child.  200 sq ft is enough space for 10 kids.**
* We averaged 20 kids + 5-6 adult teachers in Sunday School this past fiscal year, 6 in the cry room.
* Teen Bible class was held offsite and attended by 8 regulars.
* Space in current classrooms: Cry room- 200 sq ft (8 toddlers) Library- 150 sq ft (7.5 children)  Fellowship Hall by kitchen- 350 sq. ft. usable space (17.5 children) Fellowship Hall by storage room- 2 class spaces, 204 sq. ft. usable space (10 children) / 170 sq. ft. usable space (8.5) There is no room for the teen class.
* While the current space is adequate for the number of children currently attending, the class space is not dedicated classroom space but shared, makeshift space. We are concerned about the impact this has on prospect families, and even our own families. As our children’s class space is shared these areas are not ideal for teaching the word of God.
* A key initiative for this fiscal year is increasing Sunday School participation. We will be visiting all families this summer to encourage this. We have 21 children 0-5 years old, 63 children 6-14 years old, and 28 children 15-18 years old. That is a total of 122 member children, not counting prospect children. If we increased Sunday School attendance to 40/Sunday, we would be close to maxing out class space.

**4. Fellowship Hall**

* **Dining capacity: 1/3 to 1/2 educational building capacity recommended. Kitchen much smaller percentage of educational space; about 10% of entire fellowship space.**
* **Space required for table seating: 12 square feet per person recommended, 10 square feet per person minimum, 15 square feet per person for round tables.**
* **Stage requires additional space**
* **Institutional Kitchen: 1/4 to 1/3 size of dining area**
* **Storage for tables and chairs**
* Our current fellowship hall is 1,600 sq. ft., with a seating capacity of 90 (16% of our total membership or 39% of average worship attendance). That amounts to nearly 18 sq. ft. per person, a larger amount than the recommended space largely because of the many angles in the configuration and the fact that it contains bookshelves, storage units, a refrigerator, copier, and file cabinet along with the kitchen.
* Traffic flow in the current fellowship space is difficult because of the configuration of the space and the multi-use nature.
* Our education spaces combined (sanctuary for adults, teen Bible Class at Pastor Burger’s home, and classes in the library, cry room, and fellowship hall) total about 4,000 sq. ft. According to the formula above, that would mean that we would need dining capacity for 1,320-2,000 sq. ft. However, our proposed fellowship space is intended also to serve as a place for children’s outreach events, where more space would be beneficial.

FEC NOTE: Is this area to be used for recreation as well?

**E. OUTREACH IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED FACILITY EXPANSION**

**Outreach Impact Of Larger Fellowship Hall**

* Children or teen outreach events, regular gatherings, and summer programs
* Workshops or special presentations appealing to large segments of the community, e.g. marriage, parenting, stress, etc.
* Meeting place for community groups and classes as a contact point with people in our community
* Additional meeting space on Sunday mornings in addition to sanctuary so we can offer specialized classes appealing to prospects (marriage, parenting, 20s&30s, life issues, etc.)
* Space to accommodate fellowship gatherings appealing to prospects and connected to Sunday morning worship: Chili cook-off, Easter brunch, Harvest Festival, Open House, Friendship Sunday, etc.
* Appealing space for couples desiring to be married at church and have reception on site
* Easily accessible space for after-service fellowship and refreshments geared toward welcoming guests
* Space for meals for the disadvantaged: e.g. Thanksgiving or Christmas meals, or once-a-month meals
* Movie nights, Super Bowl parties, etc. to which friends, neighbors, etc. can be invited
* Provides flexibility to conduct adult Bible studies and still add another worship service when needed
* Play area for children during “moms and tots” gatherings
* Big enough space for blood drives, polling place, etc. to build community awareness of our church
* More accommodating space for funeral luncheons for grieving families

**Outreach Impact Of Expanded Narthex/Lobby:**

* Large, inviting, less noisy and congested area in which to visit with guests; close to fellowship hall
* Area large enough to be used as overflow for worship on Sundays when there is large attendance, or for overflow from fellowship hall
* New entrance more appealing and inviting to guests/passers by

**Outreach Impact of Multi-use Young Adult Space (current fellowship hall):**

* Regular middle school or high school gatherings
* On-site Sunday Bible class for teens
* Post-high school/college gathering area for Bible Studies and fellowship
* Comfortable and useable space for support group or small group meetings

**Outreach Impact Of Classrooms/Nursery:**

* Dedicated classroom space for regular Sunday School that is not cramped
* Outreach events and summer programs for children
* Dedicated space for spiritual programing for young children during worship service

**F. THE FUNDING PLAN, GIVING PROJECTIONS, COST IMPACT**

**1. What is the economic picture in Michigan**?

(<http://michiganeconomy.chicagofedblogs.org/?p=595>)

During most of the 2000s, Michigan’s economic growth stagnated, and it fell into a one-state recession between 2003 and 2009. During the recession, per capita personal income growth slowed. In 2000 (when indexed), U.S. and Michigan per capita personal income were virtually equal. Over the period 2000–07 (before the Great Recession began), U.S. per capita personal income increased 31.2%, while Michigan per capita personal income increased 18.6%. However, over the period 2010–13, per capita personal income (as well as per capita disposable income) increased at a higher rate in Michigan than in the nation as whole. 10 Michigan’s higher per capita income growth rates may be in part due to changes in its household employment and labor force participation rates. Both rates have been increasing more rapidly as of late.

Michigan’s one-state recession in the 2000s lowered employment and employment participation, thereby slowing its per capita personal income growth. In regard to state per capita personal income growth relative to that of the nation’s, Michigan has now reached a point where it has clearly fallen behind most of its Seventh District neighbors. As the national economy continues to recover from the Great Recession, we can ask whether Michigan has now returned to personal income growth rates of the past for the foreseeable future. The answer is yes, but this may not be good enough. Despite the noteworthy amount of positive economic news coming from Michigan since the end of the recession (including the auto industry’s resurgence), its personal income growth has, at best, matched the long-term trend for personal income growth in the United States. At this pace, the Michigan economy is vulnerable in losing further ground during the next national downturn.

See also: <http://www.city-data.com/county/Eaton_County-MI.html>

**Michigan Real Per Capita Income Trends since 2005**

The current per capita income for Michigan is $25,918. Real per capita income peaked in 2005 at $29,090 and is now $3,172 (10.90%) lower. From a post peak low of $25,238 in 2010, real per capita income for Michigan has now grown by $680 (2.69%).



**Michigan Real Median Family Income Trends since 2005**

The current median family income for Michigan is $60,846. Real median family income peaked in 2005 at $68,345 and is now $7,499 (10.97%) lower. From a post peak low of $59,938 in 2010, real median family income for Michigan has now grown by $908 (1.51%).



**2. What is our 2014 giving per communicant and how does it compare to the synodical average and other area WELS churches? What is the giving potential of our congregation?**

SOTH: $874 ($387,235 given for local and synodical ministry, through church and individually)

Emanuel: $903

Zion: $1,197

Jackson: $1,054

Portland: $1,218

Eaton Rapids: $666

WELS: $1,143.

SOTH anticipated 2014-15 giving ($320,000) represents approximately 2.3 percent of income, using 2014 Michigan per capita income ($25,918) x baptized souls (551) = 14,280,818.

 Increase giving to 3% of per capita income: $428,454 (+105,000 over anticipated 2014-15 giving)

 Increase giving 1% to 3.3% of per capita income: $456,986 (+133,000 over anticipated 2014-15 giving)

 Note: Christian giving during The Great Depression was 3.3% of per capita income

**3. How much cash do we have on hand in the General Fund and other funds?**

General Fund: 46,254

Building Fund: 36,319

Mission/Visions Fund: 33,872

Debt Retirement: 2,478

Gift/Memorials Fund: 80,336

TOTAL: 199,259

**4. What is the estimated total project cost (including furnishings, remodeling existing structure, etc.)**

 New Construction: 1,306,070

 Furnishings 50,000

 Architect 100,000

 Contingencies 50,000

 TOTAL 1,500,000

**5. What impact will the completed construction project have on upkeep and utilities costs?**

 If we assume utilities and janitorial will be equal to current monthly costs:

 Utilities: 693 Janitorial: 675 Insurance: ?

**9. What are the monthly mortgage/upkeep/utilities costs we are willing to take on?**

We determined we could assume $66,000/year (48,000 for debt service; 18,000 in additional janitorial/ upkeep/utilities/etc.) for these reasons:

a) While $66,000 is a 21% increase over 14-15 giving, we believe that there is room to grow in our stewardship and that the Lord will bless our efforts to encourage first-fruits giving through the power of the gospel.

b) $50,000 annually designated for support of non-local ministry could be reallocated in a crisis.

c) We have reserves of nearly $200,000 for furnishings, loan repayment, or ministry development.

d) $66,000 is well short of the “rule of thumb” that loan repayment and costs associated with expanded space not exceed 25-35% of a church’s total budget.

The $66,000/year figure assumes a down payment in hand of $800,000 (53% of the total project cost) and a loan of $700,000 loan (47% of the total project cost) with a $4,000 monthly mortgage, assuming a 5.5% interest rate and a 30 year amortization.

**10. What is the proposed fund raising plan for this project?**

Our funding raising proposal seeks:

1) One time gifts for a down payment of $800,000

2) Pledges for general fund offerings that would enable us to fund a $406,000 budget. ($340,000 for ministry + $48,000 in debt service + 18,000 in janitorial, utilities, insurance for expanded space.

We would seek permission from voters to conduct fundraising in every member visits as soon as possible, with the hope that fund raising could occur through the end of summer and into fall, with the results of the fund raising made available to the congregation by the end of fall.

* We would take the project to the voters for approval only if we hit our target numbers for down payment and increased budget support.
* If we did not hit our target for a down payment after fund raising this summer/fall, we would continue to seek gifts until we reach the target goal.
* We would operate a budget equal to the total from offering pledges. Whatever is given over the approved $340,00 budget for 2015-16 will be banked and could be used for the down payment, for ministry development once the new facility is built, or for furnishings, etc. at the discretion of the voters.
* If our offering pledges are anywhere near the $406,000 target, we would be able to “test run” a budget that supports the increased expenses associated with building before making the final decision to build.
* If our offering pledges are greater than the $406,000 target, we could reevaluate our down payment and loan calculations, and consider a higher figure for a loan and annual debt service.

**10. How will the anticipated monthly mortgage/upkeep/utilities figure break down in terms of cost per active member?**

Rather than figuring the cost per communicant, we chose to calculate the cost impact on active giving units. A “giving unit” is an individual or couple. “Active” means that they worship and contribute offerings.

* $66,000/year works out to $340/year per active giving unit (195), $28/month, $6.50/week.
* Figuring giving units that gave $200 or more (150), $440/year per giving unit, $37/month, $8.50/week.

Note: We have approximately 300 total giving units in the congregation. 250 envelopes were given out for 2015.

**11. How will the congregation’s ministry plans for the next five years impact the budget over that time?**

Development of ministries to seniors: minimal

Development of groups and events for fellowship and outreach: minimal

Development of support groups and workshops; WLCFS counseling $2,500

Development of additional children’s outreach events/programs $5,000

Possible coordinator for children ministry $10-20,000

Tuition Support for WELS Lutheran School students $2,500-5,000

**12. Should we modify our current budget to reallocate current funds toward mortgage/utilities / upkeep? What impact would that have on congregational and synodical mission/ministry plans?**

We need to be cautious about this as reducing our ability to do ministry, reach more people with the gospel, grow the church. We reduced the budget from $343,000 to $339,000 for 15-16 as we anticipated 14-15 offerings to be $320,000. To further reduce the budget would call for cuts in salary or benefits, cutting back on mission offerings, reducing or eliminating support for children attending WELS schools, outreach to the community, and what we do to nurture individuals and families in the Word of God.

**13. In a worst case financial scenario post-construction, what budgetary expenses would we be willing to reallocate to enable us to make loan payments? What criteria would determine which budgetary expenses are reallocated?**

See 9 b,c above

**Exodus 25:1-9**

1 The LORD said to Moses, 2 "Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from each man whose heart prompts him to give. 3 These are the offerings you are to receive from them: gold, silver and bronze; 4 blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; 5 ram skins dyed red and hides of sea cows; acacia wood; 6 olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; 7 and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece. 8 "Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.

**Exodus 35: 4 – 36:7**

4 Moses said to the whole Israelite community, "This is what the LORD has commanded: 5 From what you have, take an offering for the LORD. Everyone who is willing is to bring to the LORD an offering of gold, silver and bronze; 6 blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; 7 ram skins dyed red and hides of sea cows; acacia wood; 8 olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense…10 "All who are skilled among you are to come and make everything the LORD has commanded: 11 the tabernacle with its tent and its covering, clasps, frames, crossbars, posts and bases…

20 Then the whole Israelite community withdrew from Moses' presence, 21 and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved him came and brought an offering to the LORD for the work on the Tent of Meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments. 29 All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the LORD freewill offerings for all the work the LORD through Moses had commanded them to do.

**2. Review Of 10 Key Points Regarding “Fund-Raising” In The Bible:**

1. Keep God at the center: Seek his guidance in prayer, rely on his Word to inspire and guide how fund raising is done, trust him to bless the project, do it for his glory.
2. Assume that God’s people by faith WANT to give and don’t resent being asked to give.
3. Avoid any motivation that coerces, manipulates, or appeals to self. Keep the motivation Jesus Christ, his grace, his gospel, and the privilege to have Christ and proclaim Christ to others.
4. Let joy (joy in Christ, joy in giving, joy in serving the cause of the gospel) permeate the process!
5. Involve all in the offering, and many in the process and the project, using all the skills of God’s people.
6. Build faith through the gospel as job one, as generous giving is an expression of faith.
7. Let leaders lead by example.
8. Celebrate the giving of God’s people, praising God for what HE produces.
9. Because God wants us to “excel in the grace of giving,” we should use a special offering as a chance to teach financial stewardship to God’s people.
10. Point God’s people to God’s promises to bless our generosity and bless us through our generosity!