

Q & A UPDATE

“Welcoming Children – Strategic Plan”

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to watch and view handouts for the Strategic Plan presentation or scan the QR codes with your smart device.

VIDEO



HANDOUTS



Over the past few weeks, the congregation has been able to ask questions. Here are some of the questions we have received:

- 1. What are the terms of the capital campaign?** We have consulted with the Minnesota/Dakotas United Methodist Foundation for advice and best practices. Given the proposed amount we are trying to raise (\$300,000) they recommend a capital campaign of 18 months, which would begin January 1st. They do not recommend engaging the services of an outside capital campaign company as those companies would charge \$50,00-70,000 or more.
- 2. Will more insurance be needed?** Yes, insurance costs will go up. We have built this cost into the business plan.
- 3. What are the current rates for childcare?** Great question – and one for which the answers are in flux. We consulted with Dawn Uribe, a leader in the field of early childhood care in Minnesota, and the owner of four childcare centers. For budgeting purposes, the rates are based on the current CCAP (Child Care Assistance Program) weekly rates.
 - a. Infant Care \$439
 - b. Toddlers \$376
 - c. Preschoolers \$318.

Dawn says, “This is based on the current reimbursement rates which are at the 30th percentile of market rates. Starting in November, CCAP rates will go to the 70th percentile of market which will increase the weekly reimbursement rates significantly (about \$80/week additional for all age groups). Those specific (and highly anticipated) numbers will come out soon.”

- 4. Is there a need for more childcare in our community?** The answer is yes. Securing infant care is especially difficult with many childcare centers having a long wait list. The number of childcare providers in the state has declined, while need has been growing. Here is data from the State of Minnesota Department of Human Services Family Child Care Licensing Trends. Minnesota will lose an estimated 70,763 child care spots, with 2,741 projected childcare program closures with the end of the American Rescue Plan Act, or ARPA, stabilization funds at the end of September 2023.

Here are some recent news articles about the childcare shortage:

Business Insider



Twin Cities Business



Kare 11



Axios TC



NY Times



5. Will the childcare offer scholarships or a sliding fee scale? Yes. Built into the budget is equity of projected income over expenses. This net equity is what will allow us to offer childcare scholarships, etc. Our hope is to help lower wage earners have great, high quality childcare for their children.

6. Why should the church offer childcare? Another great question. Our church mission statement is, "Walking together the words and ways of Jesus". Our core values include Intergenerational, Inclusive and In Community. After much study, prayer and discernment, church leaders believe that adding childcare fits both our mission and values.

We welcome your questions! Please email me karen.bruins@lakeharrietumc.org

Grace and peace,
Pastor Karen Bruins

Please join us in praying for our church and community.

