



Midwest Messenger



“To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion, and power, both now and forever. Amen” Jude 25

January 13, 2007 Volume 10, Issue 6

Greetings from the Board of Trustees!

As a society, we have now met two of our established benchmarks and are working towards a third. Our treasurer reports that total funds on hand or pledged total \$1,207,064.34. Lord willing, we will meet or exceed the third benchmark of \$1.5 million by the end of our spring drive. As a board this is an exciting but busy time. There is a lot of new information to gather and a lot of older material from past committee work to draw together and update so that our project can materialize into a functioning school.

Although our final benchmark is \$1.5 million, we as a board would like to exceed this amount and reach \$1.8 or \$1.9 million or even more. Why? For several reasons. First, the original figures included several hundred thousand in borrowed funds in addition to the cash raised. Wouldn't it be great to start the school debt free, so that we do not burden our new school with a substantial debt service on top of operational costs? Next, the original projections on which the benchmarks were based were established

several years ago. The calculations for both the building and the equipment and furnishings were estimates. While the board is confident in its research, wouldn't it be comforting to know that we have funds on hand if prices come in higher so that the school does not need to incur additional debt?

We remind the Society of two things. First, these higher figures do not mean past numbers were inaccurate, but that they are now two and half years old. Hence, it is reasonable that we can expect somewhat of a higher cost today. Further, the Board is not proposing that we change the \$1.5 million benchmark. The Board would like the Society's approval to build just as soon after we reach that benchmark as possible. However, we also seek to minimize the debt we take on.

The building committee is still working closely with J&J Building Contractors to establish a maximum guaranteed price for the project to bring to the society. In order for these prices to be valid, construction of our building would have to take place

soon. The board's desire is to begin construction this year, with the building ready for use in the 2009-2010 school year. The board hopes to present the final plans and cost estimates to the society for approval in the near future.

The board desires to begin providing covenantal education for our children as soon as possible. In order to work towards that end, the Education Committee has been working on a timeline of steps that would need to take place in order for classes to begin in the fall of 2008.

Our purpose here is to lay out the approved events that the Education Committee formulated in response to the Board's directive. The directive was to outline the steps necessary to work toward the start of a ninth grade in the fall of 2008 should the funds come in to bring us very close to a building project. In most cases we cannot attach specific dates as to when the following will occur, however, our prayer is that we can move through it as thoroughly and quickly as possible. The timeline of events is as follows:

1. Board approval of timeline. This has taken place already as the Board approved the timeline at its October meeting.

2. Education committee work with state and local school districts to work with a high school/home school situation. The work here at the state level involves receiving some sort of recognition that we would educate students. We would not be able to be accredited at least for the first while, so we may fit under the broad umbrella of some of the home school legislation. The work with the local school districts involves approval of the curriculums we would teach. Some initial work with curriculums is started.

3. Publish in *Midwest Messenger* intent and timeline concerning ninth grade. We not only hope to publish this timeline today, but also to post updates on the timeline in future issues.

4. Survey parents of next year's ninth graders concerning their desires toward enrolling their child in ninth grade starting next year pending reaching the benchmarks of the 2005 decision. The Board plans to host an information night for the parents of these students. This would be followed by some sort of a survey so that we can gather the most accurate

information possible. Note here that this is not a departure from the benchmarks of 2005 as any commitment parents make to enrolling their child is still pending that we reach the 2005 benchmarks.

5. Seek accommodations. Once we have the necessary commitment from parents and the benchmarks attained, the Board will be in a position to more knowledgably shop for a one-year temporary facility. We will then be able to say to building owners that we seek to rent from exactly how much space we need and how long (hopefully one school year) we'll need it.

6. Society approval. The Society would then have opportunity to vote their approval that we begin operations in a temporary facility in 2008.

7. Advertise for and hire teacher(s). (For information: administrator contracts go out Jan. 15, present teachers on Mar. 1, and new teachers on April 1.) For a ninth grade education, the Board is confident we can provide for our needs with one full-time and one part-time teacher, or two full-time teachers, depending on the individual qualifications of the teachers.

8. Work through curriculums. The teachers who will be teaching the classes would then work through the curriculums to make them be best applicable to the students they'll be teaching and

suitable to their own teaching style.

9. Order books and supplies and rent a facility. The ordering of the books would be in very close conjunction with #8 above and the renting of a facility would be the realizing the fruit of #5 above.

10. Open school. The Lord willing, everything will be in place that we can begin instructing our children in complete accord with the truths we hold dear.

The timeline is general and flexible enough that it allows the Board, Society, and parents to proceed with direction, but yet be able to respond in wisdom as different scenarios may arise. We pray for the Lord's blessing on this endeavor that we may soon be able to open the school's doors.