SCHOOL

PROPERTY

SOLD

The front-page article in the November 20th *Wrightstown Area Spirit,* noting the sale of our school property to the Village of Wrightstown,has raised many understandable questions and concerns regarding the future of our beloved early childhood and elementary school programs.

In April of 2018 St. John's Voters Assembly, the ultimate governing body over the congregation's educational programs, voted to establish four committees to get to work on developing plans for new church and school construction on the Plum Road acreage purchased earlier for this purpose. The entire effort is moving forward under the B.O.L.D S.T.E.P.S logo.

For the last year and a half those four committees have accomplished many things, including the following:

* Working with the architectural firm Excel Engineering, a site plan has been developed indicting how the new construction might be located on the seventeen acre Plum Road site.
* Working with the same architectural firm, a floor plan and elevations for both the church and the school have been developed. Both the site plan and the floor plan/elevations have been presented to the congregation in five recently-held B.O.L.D S.T.E.P.S forums.
* We have or will soon have contractual agreements with Catalyst Construction for the building phase, and with Cornerstone Stewardship Ministry for assistance in the fund-raising phase.
* Every avenue for reaping value from our present properties is being explored. **The sale of our school property and building to the Village of Wrightstown for $200,000 is a beneficial part of this initiative.** Note that the contract for sale allows us to use the current school building for up to five years free of charge.
* Planning for a capital fund drive in the early months of 2020 is proceeding on schedule.
* The Voters Assembly will be meeting again on December 8 to authorize continuing steps in the building venture.

Current plans and schedules, assuming congregation approval and a successful fund drive, call for final building plans to be approved after the conclusion of the fund drive, and for shovels to be in the ground in the fall of 2020 so that the building will be ready for occupancy and use in the fall of 2021. Because we have unrestricted use of the current school until 2024, that allows plenty of wiggle room for adjusting the plans and schedules as needed.

In short, we have every reason to believe that, under God's continued blessing, we will keep the school programs running and even expanding throughout this complex but exciting process. Of course, you may have questions along the way. Do not hesitate to reach out for answers. (The information hub for this B.O.L.D S.T.E.P.S project is the Communication Committee, chaired by Ron Zahn, who can be reached at ronandjoanz40@yahoo.com or 920.336-5965.)

*(Release #13 December 2019)*

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