

Buildings and Grounds Committee Report

February 2024 Board Meeting

The primary function of this committee remains to support the core community of Mount Irenaeus in the stewardship of the land and buildings of the mountain. The leadership has set a path toward making the mountain more ecologically sustainable. This is consistent with our values and our history of using the resources of the land in our buildings, our meals, and our ministry.

1. The Land- We are continuing to look at our property and that of our adjoining neighbors. There has been agreement that we need a plan for the acquisition and disposition of the land- hiring a professional to guide us in this effort. While that idea is being considered Mike Fenn has continued to move forward on some initiatives.
 - a. Mike has had discussions with our neighbors across the street to re-open the discussion of acquisition/land swap.
 - b. We completed the land acquisition with Laureen Clark. She remains on the property and one house is vacant.
2. Building Exteriors-
 - a. Roofs- In our last report we told you that the B&G committee would assist the staff with procuring replacement quotes for the roofs on the House of Peace and The Other House. I can report that Martha and Joe have been very busy refining the scope of work and obtaining a number of quotes. We expect to select a contractor in the next few weeks with a plan to schedule the work for this Spring.
 - b. Handrails- Both La Paz and Saint Joseph's deck rails were replaced last quarter. The repairs made the porches safer.
 - c. In the last report we spoke of creating a plan for the renovations required for the Taylor House. There hasn't been any further discussion on the long-term plan for this building.
3. Building Interiors-
 - a. Our focus has been on the replacement of several appliances. It should be noted that moving from propane to electric requires electrical rewiring. In the hermitages this may also require upgrading the building's electrical service panel. We believe this is a good move and will provide many benefits.
 - i. Most of the stove tops are propane-fired. Joe and Martha have begun the process of replacing the stove top of Juniper with an electric unit. We expect to use Juniper as a model for the other buildings.
 - ii. In our last report, we noted that the two stoves in The House of Peace need to be replaced. The core community was consulted and have agreed with the plan of changing to electric rather than propane. Martha and Joe have had electricians review the work and are obtaining estimates. The rewiring project should be assigned in the next few weeks. Mike Sullivan is assisting with the selection of the appliances.
 - iii. The HOP dishwasher has a leak. B&G and staff are discussing whether to replace or repair this unit. It is over 15 years old. We've also discussed possibly changing out the wood floor in that portion of the kitchen. There has been no resolution to that discussion.
 - b. Juniper's heat and hot water- Joe and Martha have purchased an electric unit to replace the propane-fired one. They are close to finalizing the selection of the electrician.
4. The refresh of the Hermitages- We have been discussing a plan to update the interiors of the hermitages. We have taken some "first steps" in that plan. More to follow...