

Buildings and Grounds Committee Report

April 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 a land swap.
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. We also learned that The Chapel needs to have its roof replaced. It was added to the scope of the project. We have selected a contractor. We have scheduled the work for this Summer.
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. The new stove top and countertop have been installed.
 - 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. The electrician has installed the power cable. Mike Sullivan is assisting with the selection of the appliances. We anticipate purchase in the next 30 days.
 - iii. The HOP dishwasher has a leak. Mike Sullivan is working to procure the parts needed for the repair.
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...