

## RESOLUTION 2026-06

### To Approve Construction of the Phase 1A Narthex Addition

**Whereas**, Jesus gave His disciples the command to “go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19–20 ESV); and

**Whereas**, the earliest Christians gathered regularly for spiritual growth, fellowship, worship, and prayer, sharing their resources for the common good and for the work of ministry, and “the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47 ESV), as described in Acts 2:42–47; and

**Whereas**, our congregation continues this ministry in this place and time and has summarized our mission in these three words: “Preaching. Teaching. Reaching.”

**Whereas**, we have dedicated spaces for preaching/worship (the sanctuary) and teaching (our school buildings and church office meeting spaces and youth room), thanks to the foresight, sacrifice, and faithful stewardship of our forebears; and

**Whereas**, the congregation has discussed the ongoing need for a space for reaching (in-reach to our members to strengthen relationships and outreach to our neighbors to welcome them into the life of the church) and has explored possible concepts for a narthex to be added to the north side of the sanctuary in 2006 and 2014; and

**Whereas**, the 2024–2029 Ministry Plan approved by the congregation on June 19, 2024, includes the objective: “Establish a team to oversee the design, approval, and capital fundraising for a new narthex”; and

**Whereas**, the Facilities Planning Team/Campus Team, which had been meeting since 2023 to review facility needs across our campus, was refocused in the second half of 2024 to pursue the narthex project specifically; and

**Whereas**, the Campus Team was assisted by Rev. Billy Brath and Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) since October 2024 to hire an architectural/design firm, facilitate design meetings, review financial systems of our congregation and advise for improvements, facilitate a general stewardship campaign for our annual budget, assist the early-stage implementation of our 2024–2029 Ministry Plan, envision a Master Campus Plan, and lay the groundwork for a ministry expansion capital campaign; and

**Whereas**, the Campus Team interviewed two architectural firms and hired SFS Architecture (hereafter SFS) to continue envisioning how the narthex design will help meet our ministry needs and goals; and

**Whereas**, the Campus Team met ten times with SFS staff to develop and tailor a new narthex connected to the sanctuary and no fewer than twenty additional stakeholder SPLC members and leaders provided information about ministry and space needs and goals (including, but not limited to, Altar Guild, weddings, funerals, restrooms, grade school opportunities, parking and the flow of worshipers in and out of the building, concerts and special events, and more); and

**Whereas**, SFS staff provided a series of campus floor plans to the Campus Team focused on those space needs and desires, used a “visual preferencing” exercise to help the Team inform SFS of an optimal design, and the Campus Team was presented with a series of external design features that would complement the juxtaposition of the new narthex (and potential further additions) to our historic sanctuary, taking into account best practices for renovations and additions to historic, landmark structures; and

**Whereas**, SFS amended their initial concept and floor plan to accommodate a three-phase design (Phase 1A, Phase 1B, Phase 2) to control construction costs while allowing for future expansion; and

**Whereas**, Phase 1A is the only element of this master plan under current consideration with specific estimated costs and a conceptual design agreed upon by the Campus Team; and

**Whereas**, SFS brought in a team of engineers in March 2025 to provide a conditions assessment for all buildings on our campus and building-related systems; and

**Whereas**, the revised cost estimate for Phase 1A on January 6, 2026, was \$5,703,429 (including approximately \$350,000 of repair work to the existing sanctuary as noted in their March 2025 conditions assessment); and

**Whereas**, the Campus Team and Church Council recommended moving forward with the Phase 1A conceptual design and capital fundraising, and on January 11, 2026, the congregation gave initial approval to the Phase 1A concept and authorized St. Paul’s Lutheran Church to contract with LCEF for a ministry expansion capital campaign in the Spring of 2026; and

**Whereas**, Rev. Eric Kennaugh, LCEF Vice President of Ministry Solutions, has assisted us in forming a Campaign Executive Team and Leadership Team and facilitating a ministry expansion campaign, including multiple forums, cottage meetings, prayer opportunities, newsletters to inform and inspire, and a congregation campaign Commitment Event on Sunday, May 17, 2026; and

**Whereas**, the Lord has blessed the Together: Faith+Mission+Life ministry expansion campaign with overwhelming generosity, resulting in \$2,473,994 in financial pledges committed by the members and friends of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church toward this project (as of May 21, 2026); and

**Whereas**, we currently have \$1,603,766 allocated for this project from the Growing by God’s Grace campaign (as of May 21, 2026), for a total of \$4,077,706 for the Phase 1A Narthex Addition; and

**Whereas**, the final design specifications, architectural plans, and definitive construction costs for Phase 1A will be developed by SFS and reviewed by the Campus Team and Church Council; and

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that the voting membership of St. Paul's Lutheran Church receive with profound gratitude to God the success of the ministry expansion campaign and the final recommendations of the Campus Team and Church Council; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the congregation grants final approval for the construction of the Phase 1A Narthex Addition, including the identified sanctuary repairs, at the estimated cost of \$5,703,429; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the Church Council and designated leadership teams are authorized to execute all necessary contracts with SFS Architecture, general contractors, and project partners to begin construction activities; and

**Be it finally resolved**, that the funding for this construction project be drawn from the Together: Faith+Mission+Life capital campaign pledges, the Growing by God's Grace funds, and such authorized financing mechanisms through the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) as deemed prudent by the Church Council to maintain healthy cash flow through project completion.