

# COMMUNITY

## Reformed Church of Colonie

Epiphany greetings to you, church!

Before we embark on our Lenten journey to the cross and empty tomb, I'd like to update you on notable details related to our largest renovation project.

Why? Well, as I grow in understanding the inner workings of our congregation, I believe it's my pastoral responsibility to tell the true and good stories of our shared life, especially when it comes to our mission, governance, and finances.

Last December, following worship, we paused to give thanks and ask for God's blessing on the many projects completed in recent years. From the renovated kitchen and new HVAC system, to a new electric sign and outdoor shed, and especially the extensive renovation of the welcome-way, church office, newly named Koinonia Room, washer-dryer room, tech room, and bathrooms. It's this last major renovation project that I'll focus on:

To help tell this good story clearly, I'll focus on three things: how this major project was funded, what's happening right now, and what we anticipate in the coming months.

### I. How did we fund this project?

54% of the total cost of the project came from our Investment Fund, which was created at the sale of the parsonage in 2016 and has grown well for the past nine years. 22% came from our Savings Account, which was accumulated over time in conjunction with the Investment Fund. 21% came from an RCA Flourishing Church Grant, and 3% from the Elaine Hoogkamp Restroom Fund.

Where the Funds Came for Our Renovation	
Investment Fund Withdrawals	54%
Savings Account Withdrawals	22%
RCA Flourishing Church Grant	21%
Elaine Hoogkamp Restroom Fund	3%

The way CRCC funded this project truly is a testament to the wise financial stewardship of our church, both over the years and during this renovation. But there's also a lot of good in what we did *not* do to fund this project, which I also want to highlight:

1. The overwhelming majority of this project was *not* funded by your regular giving in the fiscal year of 2024-2025. This means that the majority of your regular giving went to sustaining and growing ministry, a sign of a church with healthy finances.
2. Additionally, we did *not* pass any of these renovation costs on to our daycare families. This is because the daycare is considered part of the church's mission and faithfully serves families while striving to stay reasonably affordable.

3. Finally, we did *not* rely on just one source to fund this project. Instead, the cost was spread across a few sources, one of which was a substantial grant which means we do not need to pay that back. Ultimately, this means that our savings and Investment Fund were not significantly affected.

Take the Investment Fund, for example: The draw of funds we took out totaled to be 24% of the Investment Fund. However, that 24% was drawn from our fund which had been growing steadily over the past nine years; in fact, the fund grew by 240% since the original investment in 2016. This means that 76% (54% Investment Fund + 22% Savings Account) of this project was funded by good decisions made almost a decade ago, *and* the fund is still more than double the value we originally put in it.

I share all of this information about funding this project, in addition to all that was said at the December celebration and blessing, in order to celebrate the good financial management that has been done. I also want to make sure you know that, as a church, you've accomplished something significant, *and* you've done that significant thing well. Take pride in that. Well done! May God continue to use our finances and property for good.

## **II. What's happening now?**

Well, we've been furnishing these spaces and enjoying them! I'm glad that the church and the daycare both now have designated offices, and everyone has been enjoying the new welcome-way and bathrooms. I can't count how many times guests have remarked how lovely it is to walk into our church. It has also warmed my heart that you've been utilizing the Koinonia Room, too!

As I said in December when we named the room, "koinonia" is a biblical Greek word meaning "communion, fellowship, or joint-participation," which is exactly what I would love for that space to be about. Yes, my desk is in the room, but it's a room for you! Please enjoy the coffee, tea, snacks, refrigerator, and microwave, and yes, you can use the books. (I love my books, which is why I would love for you to enjoy them, too!) I also want to thank the generous donor who furnished the Koinonia Room, and to let you know that the Consistory hopes to purchase a large Shaker-style table, as an homage to our history.

## **III. What's ahead?**

There is one outstanding portion of the project that still needs to be completed, which is actively being worked on as we speak: our doors. The Consistory has decided to replace our front doors with plans to add automatic openers for accessibility. Other doors will be updated or made accessible as well, though the specifics are still being determined. We're hopeful that half of the cost for these door updates will be funded by a grant from Albany Classis. This project will take place when it gets warmer.

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I hope I haven't overloaded you with information! Please know that I plan to give a broader overview of our finances at our Congregational Meeting. In the meantime, I pray this information about this major renovation will be received with thankfulness and joy. I'd also encourage you to watch the celebration and blessing service on our YouTube ([link](#)) to hear more about how all of these projects unfolded.

Thank you to everyone who made this possible! - Pastor Trey