

A storyline and deeper dive into replacing our large HVAC unit

April 13, 2026

At the beginning of the April 12 Rockford UMC Sunday services, Brooke Kaule, our Trustee Chairman, and Jeff Seagle, Finance Chairman, gave an announcement regarding the need to replace a costly HVAC unit servicing the administration and education wing of the church facility. Brooke shared the Trustees have identified a number of potential facility projects being discussed but the HVAC in question has now become priority due to its chronic disrepair and high expense to maintain, let alone the quality-of-life issues it presents. The projected costs for the project are about \$130,000.

Jeff talked about our journey of paying off our mortgage and about a Sunday service back in November of 2024 when we burned the mortgage after 20 years of focusing on its elimination. This was quite an accomplishment as it was 10 years early. It was our collective priority for those 20 years, and it made that early November combined worship service very joyful, thankful and special in our praise to God. After the time of celebration, we turned our attention to the fact we had little in financial terms of a capital or facility reserve. In fact, we had less than \$10,000 in reserves for facility repairs which is insignificant for a facility of our size. We immediately set 2 initiatives in motion at the time.

First, the Trustees were charged with creating a list of potential high dollar maintenance needs the church might realize over the next 5 to 10 years. These included issues like roofs, pavements, HVAC, outdoor siding, and other large and potentially costly repairs. While nothing was eminent, it was likely some would manifest and the church was not financially prepared. As it turned out, the HVAC unit was on the list and is the first to jump to the top of the list for replacement. The Trustees sought and received firm quotes and have now budgeted this project at \$130,000.

The second initiative at the time centered on our finances. The Finance and Stewardship teams took the lead to begin building a Trustee long term capital reserve. This reserve would be available to address such future maintenance needs based on the list the Trustees were developing. In the fall campaign of 2024, we asked the congregation to continue giving throughout 2025 not only to our operating budget, but also to our "Building Needs" as well. And the response was very positive, in 2025 we received over \$90,000 to the Building Needs Fund as well as over \$20,000 from Pasty profits. And thus far in 2026, we have received over \$20,000! The reserve currently retains over \$120,000 and has already been used to fund the door replacements in the Fellowship Hall as well as the new choir room floor. The reserve will help fund the HVAC project as well as other future maintenance projects identified by Trustees. The HVAC project will also be funded by direct contributions via the ***Sponsor a HVAC BTU*** campaign running through June of 2026. Every dollar given in this campaign will be used for the HVAC replacement.

The Trustees continue to identify and prioritize the maintenance needs and balance them with the Finance Team and our ability to fund. Both teams play a vital role to be good stewards of our facilities and finances.

We will also continue to update and inform the congregation as more information and needs arise. For any further clarity please reach out to Brooke Kaule on the Trustees or Jeff Seagle on Finance.

We thank God for all who faithfully support RUMC with their time, talents and treasures. May God truly bless RUMC!