

NEW DAY

FAQ about our name change

1) Why are we recommending a name change?

When God gave a new mission to people in the Bible, He often gave them a new name: Abram to Abraham, Sarai to Sarah, Jacob to Israel, Saul to Paul. We are entering a new day, and we want to signify this new chapter to our community (and to ourselves).

We have a new focus and a new vision to reach kids, their parents, and young adults in our community. We believe this is a critical Kingdom mission.

Studies show younger people look with suspicion at churches with denominational names. In pursuit of this new vision, we believe a new name will be a more effective way for us to reach these lost people.

2) Are we leaving our denomination? Is this the first step toward leaving our denomination? Are we becoming a non-denominational church?

No, no, and no. We have always been loyal and generous to our denomination, and that will not change. Our heritage is very important to us, and just last year we (proudly!) celebrated our 75th anniversary as a Mennonite Brethren church. We hope this change will lead to *more* people joining our denomination.

3) Will the congregation vote on it?

Absolutely! The Leadership Board wants the church to process this and ask questions. The congregation will be asked to affirm changing our name in two separate votes. On November 24, 2019, you—First MB members—will be asked to affirm changing our name. If that vote passes, there will be a period of time during which the congregation can recommend names, and ultimately—sometime in 2020 (date to be determined)—the church will be invited to vote on a specific new name.

4) Has the Leadership Board or staff already selected a new name?

No. The church family will be involved in this process.

5) Where can I go to hear more about this and ask questions?

We will be having two Town Hall meetings on Thursday, October 17, and Tuesday, November 12, both at 7:00 p.m. with Leadership Board members, staff, and the Name Change Team.

Name Change Team: Brent Warkentin, John Oelze, Reg Boothe, Kim Bontrager, Paul Brucks, Matt Ehresman, Stacy Latimer, Danielle Weinbrenner, & Sue Wingert.



FAQ about our building project

1) Why is the Leadership Board recommending a building project?

The Leadership Board and staff believe we are entering a “new day” where we are boldly moving forward with a new commitment to reach and serve young adults and young families. We want our facility to be a better home for our existing families as well as the new ones we hope to reach. Therefore, portions of our facility are in need of attention and care.

2) Will the church vote on this building project?

Yes. First MB members will be asked to affirm the building program, as well as the financial plan. This vote will take place on Sunday morning, November 24, 2019.

3) What will the building project include?

We're looking at a building addition as well as renovation of our current space. We want to be good stewards and may not be able to complete all of these things in the initial phase, but here are some of our primary long-term goals:

- Expanded, more accessible, and more secure kids ministry space
- Dedicated space for our senior high ministry
- Classrooms for adult Sunday School classes and LifeGroups
- Updated staff office space
- Renovations and repairs to the kitchen

4) How much will it cost?

We don't know for sure, but we are estimating \$7.5 million (which includes architect fees). The number will be finalized for the November 24 vote. If affirmed, First MB will enter a two-year building initiative to raise as much of the total cost as possible. We are working with a ministry that specializes in helping churches raise money for building programs (Generis). They believe we can raise around \$4.5 million in two years. We would still have roughly \$3 million in debt that we will then seek to pay off as quickly as possible.

5) Why don't we raise the money ahead of time and build it for cash?

Few people raise all the money ahead of time before buying their own house, as the cost of the desired house would increase by the time they saved up the money. Similarly, we realize the difficulty of raising this amount of money prior to embarking on a building project for two reasons: (1) it would be hard to raise that amount of money without seeing anything coming from it; (2) by the time we raised this amount of money, our cost to build would be exponentially higher.

6) Will the congregation have an opportunity to see the plans ahead of time – and offer suggestions for changes?

Yes. We will have two Town Hall meetings: Thursday, October 24 and Tuesday, November 19 both at 7:00 p.m. If you have questions, you can also fill out a form at the Info Wall starting on October 24, after the first Town Hall meeting, or online at firstmbchurch.org/newday.

Building Design Team: Keith Ayotte (chair), Amy Birkey, Terry Ens, Kyle Goings, Jamie Grief, John Oelze, Ryan Rowley, Barbara Thiessen, Brad Young, & Cynthia Young.



Learn more & submit your questions at firstmbchurch.org/newday