Project Update:

Over the past few months, we've been refining the final design of the new children's ministry wing, our "Phase I" project. We have been so grateful to be able to engage with SV Design (our architect) and Groom Construction (our general contractor) before they are officially under contract (a step that can only be taken after the annual meeting)! After several rounds of feedback from within our church and multiple meetings with SV and Groom (as recently as 1/23!), we're getting close to a final design and cost estimate.

We've also appreciated the strong engagement of our church. In particular, it was helpful to convene a focus group of invested members of our community, including all of the Sunday School teachers and many of the Children's Worship teachers who will be teaching in this wing and who know our space needs. Based on the feedback we have received and the advice of our consultants, we've made some changes to our initial conceptual plan. These changes generally relate to the safety and security of our children and the functionality of the space, and include items such as:

- Passthrough doors between classrooms (providing a second means of egress)
- A fire door entering the children's wing
- A single, lockable bathroom in every room
- Interior windows to enhance natural light into all classrooms
- Sinks in every room for easier cleanup of kids and projects
- Investing some funds in outfitting our downstairs lobby (desk, check-in stations, etc.)

Our hope was/is for the cost of Phase I to fit the money that has already been given and/or set aside for this purpose. That said, these new additions will add more cost. Our total cost may still very well fall within our available funds, but we've been told that, if all expenses come in at the uppermost limit of the estimated range of cost, the additional costs could incur expenses up to $100K above our original allocation.

While we could build the initial design, we also value listening to congregational input and "doing it right" the first time. We value good stewardship, but that may mean that we invest more up front so that we have safe and flexible spaces well into the future rather than cutting corners now and regretting it down the road. Therefore, we are bringing this decision to you.

Proposal:

A vote of affirmation would allow us to

1. Move forward with Phase I of our construction project, building 4 classrooms with bathrooms, as well as outfitting our downstairs entrance area for this children's wing, utilizing money already donated toward our capital campaign and a portion of our 2024 surplus to be used as needed.

2. Officially contract SV Design and Groom Construction, finish our iterative design process, and move forward with construction, with the goal of completion before VBS
3. If needed, expand funds for this project up to $100,000 (with a better understanding of actuals in the next 10-15 days), funded by additional donations to this project and/or a short-term loan paid by our future capital campaign.