

Friends in Christ,

Thanks for your partnership, prayers, and support. It has been an interesting 24 hours.

We are so thankful to God for the fact that there were no injuries from last night's fire in the library basement.

Although the structural damage is minimal, the heavy soot and smoke damage is a huge mess. Furthermore, a burned wiring area has messed up the circuit for a major part of our heating unit, so our building is also quite cold. That is being addressed.

This morning the fire investigation continued in detail. Sadly, it appears that the fire was neither accidental nor structural.

Our insurance adjuster was out this afternoon, along with the clean up reclamation team to help form a building recovery plan.

The Seminary, like the church, is really the people, not the building. Thus, we will hold classes as scheduled beginning this evening (thanks to the spaces available at the ABC District offices).

The building recovery plan is that the Seminary *building* would function on a very limited access basis through all of next week. The plan suggests that CLS and CUCA faculty and staff use Friday Nov 14 to move the most basic, necessary, and any personal items from our offices so that they can be cleaned throughout next week. Although faculty and staff can stop by minimally for things we need, they would like us to stay relatively clear of the office area so we don't continue to recontaminate things that they have cleaned and aren't exposed to the cleaning agents (including heavy ozone).

The plan would also call for us to discontinue use of the classrooms or kitchen and other non-library areas, throughout next week. The hope is that after the first week is over, we will slowly regain use of the offices, classrooms, and these other areas. (Yes, the foosball table survived and will be ready! :)

We will also not use the library for now.

They reclamation team estimates that it may take six to eight weeks to complete cleaning the library. They will use the least invasive measures possible for the massive cleanup, hoping to clean and reclaim most of our holdings for normal use after the process is over.

What does this mean?

Faculty and staff are encouraged to self-manage and do whatever is possible from at home or spaces at the District Office (and CUCA if needed). Jeff and Dr. Chambers have arranged for use of the District Office for classrooms (including the smart room). (If necessary, CUCA could also be used next week.)

We may need to use online resources and the CUCA library for many of our intellectual resources until the cleanup is completed.

Cleanup will likely include shampooing all carpets, replacing ceiling tiles, painting some areas, and working with specialists for cleansing things like computers and the copy machine.

The cleanup team will be using an ozone machine to clean and purify the air. They recommend that we not work at length in the building for extended periods while the ozone machine is running. They will post signs on the doors when it is in use.

The cleanup team will be given a key and have managed access of the building, for *us* as well as their workers (we will need to sign in when we enter and leave the building).

Again, faculty, staff, and students can use workspaces at both the District Office and CUCA for working next week, but it may end up being a week with more work-at-home.

So ... we move forward from here, in God's grace and care, fulfilling our mission to "form servants for Jesus' sake."

And ... even beyond thanking and praising God for His protection from what could have been far worse ... we are reminded of the times throughout history when God's people have been displaced or become pilgrim sojourners, aware from their very circumstances that their (our) greater home and permanent dwelling is with God and not bound to earth. We too, are on that journey with sights set on things above.

It has been amazing to experience the outpouring of support and cooperation from around LCC. Thanks for being joyful pilgrims together. I value each of you as part of our team.

God bless,

Jim

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