

616 Mayflower Avenue
Sheboygan, WI 53083
June 19, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

Jeff Smies, AIA. Smies & Associates, Architects LLC, was selected after competitive proposals and interviews by a search committee of the First Congregational United Church of Christ to provide Design, Development and Project Construction Implementation for a two year major renovation to that Church. The selection was made in December of 2004 and the renovation project will be completed in late fall of 2006.

The renovation was the first significant project since the church construction in 1960. While the design of the renovation was integrated for the whole facility, the construction implementation was in two phases, which were influenced by the construction and installation of a new pipe organ. The first construction phase involved renovating the fellowship hall and the church offices. The second dealt with the sanctuary and narthex areas. In both cases evaluation of congregation needs, desires and budget were significant factors. Architectural input was needed for both design alternatives and current code and engineering solutions.

Throughout the process Jeff worked with the Church Renovations Committee as well as other design and construction firms, including the organ construction company, the acoustical engineering design firm and the contractor. He worked extremely well with all these diverse organizations and was very successful in communicating his ideas and researched information to the Renovations Committee which was comprised of individuals with diverse backgrounds such as engineering, maintenance, art and interior design. Jeff has a unique ability to listen to all people involved and respond to each in a way that they will understand and be comfortable with the answers.

We are very pleased with the significant progress to date and greatly anticipate the completion of our project in November 2006. I recommend and commend Jeff to any who are contemplating projects with diverse requirements and client committees to guide them.

Yours truly,



John E. Rummele
Chair, Renovation Committee
First Congregational United church of Christ