



Legacy & Leadership

A capital campaign embracing our past and preparing for our future

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. Why is our church involved in another capital campaign?**
 - a. This capital campaign provides us with an opportunity to challenge one another to prayerfully consider our individual involvement in our personal commitments to the Lord. While finances committed to the campaign will enable us to reduce the debt on our new building and invest in life-changing ministry, *our ultimate vision is to become fully committed disciples in all areas of life.*

- 2. Why are we launching this campaign now, after recently being asked to increase General Budget contributions?**
 - a. The General Budget and the Capital Campaigns are separate. We understand that the request for increased General Budget pledges raised concerns. It is important to know that our church is financially healthy. The increases in General Budget pledges allowed us to continue to seek two new associate pastors in order to return to our fully staffed model (where we experience the most growth and are best able to do God's work) without having to dip into our ample investment and endowment resources. The costs of the building project and mortgage payments are not part of the General Budget; those are and have been paid entirely by Capital Campaign contributions. We are launching now because this is the time we have planned to launch since the campaign's inception in 2012, because our church is financially strong and we want to keep it that way, and because we have confidence in our congregation's ability to step up with both broad and deep participation in this campaign.

- 3. What is the purpose of the Legacy & Leadership campaign?**
 - a. While our goal, clearly, is to raise funds to pay down the debt so that over the long-term we can invest more in mission and ministry, the real purpose of the campaign runs much deeper. It is a time of teaching that God owns everything—our time, talents, and treasures. We are simply managers or stewards. *Our hope is that through the campaign process, each of us will grow in our understanding and ability to surrender everything to Jesus Christ.*

- 4. Why are we having multiple campaigns to pay for our new building? Why did we not fund the entire project with just one campaign and be done with it?**
 - a. The advice we received in 2012 from our campaign consultant clearly demonstrated that the amount we could raise in a three-year capital campaign was not sufficient to fund the entire project we envisioned, even after substantially downsizing the scope of the project. After considerable deliberation, church leaders determined that the project was needed now and that reasonable levels of long-term debt would be appropriate to fund the entire project cost, recognizing that this would require subsequent three-year campaigns to eliminate the debt.

- 5. Why didn't we just have one nine-year campaign rather than a series of three-three year campaigns?**
 - a. Our campaign consultant's experience suggested that participation in a campaign declines when the pledge commitment is extended beyond three years. People's circumstances can change and they therefore become reluctant to make such an extended pledge. A modular approach of successive three-year capital campaigns is common and was determined to be a more effective implementation process to accomplish the need.

- 6. How much money are we trusting the Lord to supply in this campaign?**
 - a. We have set a faith goal of at least **\$1 million** over the next three years. Our new facilities cost \$3.2 million, and \$1.5 million was raised in the first campaign (2012-2015). The remaining \$1.7 million was covered by debt financing, to be paid off in subsequent capital campaigns beginning in 2015 and 2018. The second campaign raised \$824,000 (2015-2018).

- 7. Why \$1,000,000?**
 - a. We believe that \$1 million will wipe out our debt. When we succeed in meeting this goal, we have multiple options to eliminate any potential minor remaining debt from interest and fees assessed over the life of the campaign. Achieving this goal will allow us to move forward into a debt-free future.

8. Why is it important to retire the debt?

- a. First, our mortgage is a 20-year mortgage. If we retire the debt early, by June 2021, we will save over \$600,000 in interest expenses over the life of the loan. Over the long-term, these savings free us up to invest creatively and dynamically in the mission and ministries to which God is calling us as a church family. Second, as we search for two new associate pastors, evidence that we have the lay leadership and commitment necessary to pay down the debt and ensure the financial health of the church will help attract the best possible candidates.

9. Will my commitment constitute a permanent investment?

- a. Definitely. *That which we keep for ourselves can be lost, but that which we willingly give to the Lord can never be lost.* The gifts you give for the purpose of expanding God's Kingdom here at FVPC will flourish and bear fruit as God adds His blessing to your faithfulness.

10. Is there a certain amount of money that I will be expected to commit to our capital campaign?

- a. No. After asking God for guidance in the decision, each person will decide his/her actual commitment. *The goal is not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice.*

11. What is expected of my family in making a financial commitment?

- a. Every family is being asked to pray about its commitment. No one will be pressured. Nothing will be published. As a congregation, *we want all people to pray about what they believe God would want to do through them.* If God owns everything and we are simply stewards, then we believe that God will provide everything we need to effectively do the work that God has entrusted to us.

12. Can we make one commitment for our entire family?

- a. Yes, you may. We strongly urge that you involve your children in some way, either by individual commitment or by their participation in the family giving. In this way, you as a parent involve your children in the work of discipleship and help teach them the importance or faithful stewardship.

13. I already tithe to the General Budget and feel like that is all I can do. Am I wrong?

- a. Only you and the Lord can decide how much you can give. This campaign has been designed so that everyone can give something, no matter what the size. Our goal is equal sacrifice, not equal gifts. *If each one does as God leads, then our goal will be met.*

14. Can I divide my giving between the General Budget and the Capital Campaign?

- a. We strongly encourage you to make your commitment “over and above” any other giving to our church. The current ministries and mission that we support also need to be funded. We ask that you not transfer commitments from your regular pledge to the Capital Campaign.

15. Will God help me make a commitment that right now seems beyond my means?

- a. Making a commitment that is unrealistic can be detrimental to you and to the church. However, sometimes things that seem beyond reach are actually closer than they appear. We ask that you prayerfully consider how priorities may be rearranged in order to participate at a sacrificial level.

16. Do I have flexibility in making my financial commitment?

- a. Yes, there are three general categories under which you can make your commitment:
 - i. Immediate gifts from accumulated cash
 - ii. Regular weekly or monthly gifts of a specified amount over 3 years
 - iii. Stocks or Charitable Trusts

17. May I give assets other than cash?

- a. Yes. There may be tremendous tax advantages to giving assets other than cash. However, at this time, our church is only able to accept transfers of stock or, possibly, charitable trusts. One of the members of our committee will be happy to discuss this with you, or you may choose to consult with your personal tax advisor.

18. When and where will the commitments be made?

- a. Most commitments will be made on our Commitment Sundays, **May 13 and May 20**, during our worship services; however, church leadership will give theirs to our Campaign Co-Chairs or the church office on or before April 29.

19. How will commitments be received?

- a. Your financial commitment will be placed in a sealed envelope so that the confidentiality of your commitment is maintained.

20. Why do I need to make my commitment in writing?

- a. The total amount of commitments will be used to forecast future income and to establish a realistic schedule to pay down our debt.

21. Why is my name requested on the Commitment Card?

- a. We assume that if you make a commitment in good faith, relying upon God to help you meet it, you will complete it without any further contact from church leaders. However, there are some very practical reasons for having names on commitments:
 - i. **Confusion.** Sometimes there may be confusion when interpreting a Commitment Card. Having a name allows the person tabulating the commitments to get the issue clarified before reporting totals to the congregation.
 - ii. **People Forget.** Over the course of a three-year time frame, it is not unusual for a few people to lose or misplace the personal copy of their commitment. Without names, it is impossible to provide a reminder to anyone, even at their own request.
 - iii. **Pledge Validation.** The church needs to know that the pledge is valid. Strange as it might seem, there have been instances where a well-meaning teenager mistakenly completed a large pledge with dire consequences to the church campaign. Without names, you have no way of knowing whether the pledge has validity.
 - iv. **Duplicates.** Occasionally, a pledge card is returned and then, later in the campaign, the pledge is submitted again. By providing names the church is able to be certain that we are not counting pledges more than once.

22. How will the commitments be reported?

- a. Your sealed Commitment Card will be received and opened by the Capital Campaign Co-Chairs, Jen Gustafson and Paul Olney, and the combined dollar amount will be reported to the congregation on Celebration Sunday, June 3.

23. Will my commitment be made public?

- a. Absolutely not! Your commitment will be known only to the Campaign Co-Chairs; the Campaign Treasurer, John Reilly, the FVPC Treasurer, Brian Wetters; and FVPC Financial Administrator, Jill Reilly. We will not make these commitments a matter of public knowledge in any way, shape, or form.

24. If I should fall behind, will the church take steps to make me pay?

- a. We most certainly will not take any action to collect on a voluntary financial commitment. Our purpose in this campaign is to aggressively reduce our debt so that we can continue to make forward progress in accomplishing the mission of our church. We are simply asking that you pray and seek God's guidance as to what God would

have you commit. We have provided Commitment Cards for us to plan wisely.

25. When am I supposed to start giving toward my commitment?

- a. We anticipate giving towards commitments to begin on **July 1, 2018**. Of course we recognize that not everyone receives a weekly paycheck. Therefore, you may begin honoring your commitment based upon the timing that you designate on your commitment Card and according to your income schedule. If you are able to pay at the beginning of the campaign, all the better as that will enable the church to make earlier pre-payments on the mortgage avoiding more interest.

26. Will I have opportunity to revise my commitment?

- a. Certainly. Since this is a commitment between you and the Lord, you have opportunity to revise your commitment. It would be helpful if changes could be communicated in a written manner so church leadership can adjust their projections.

27. Why is there an option to contribute to Mission?

- a. Mission is at the heart of what we do at FVPC. Honoring that, and our history of including a mission component in past capital campaigns, we wanted to give the congregation the option to direct a portion of their pledge (up to 10%) to mission. However, with understanding that the purpose of this campaign is debt reduction, we did not wish to require anyone to divert funds from that important goal. Funds earmarked for mission will be kept separate from the debt servicing funds. The accounts will be reconciled annually and the appropriate funds will be given to the Mission committee who will decide, in consultation with the appropriate pastors, how it should be allocated.