



Legacy & Leadership

A capital campaign embracing our past and preparing for our future

Case Statement: FVPC Third Capital Campaign, 2018-2021

Since our founding in the Harrison Street School gymnasium in 1952, Fox Valley Presbyterian Church has maintained a growth mindset and a congregation with a heart for mission. We have consistently expanded our missions within the church, the community, the country and even internationally. Throughout, our physical space has grown with our congregation and played a significant role in those mission offerings. We have completed and fully paid off building projects in the 1950s, 1960s, 1980s and 1990s, increasing our space to meet the needs of our growing congregation and expanding our mission work along with it. In 2012 we undertook another building project to construct the beautiful facilities we now enjoy.

We are richly blessed to have a flourishing congregation that continues to thrive in this new space. Our program rooms host activities every day of the week. Our preschool--The Growing Place--is blooming. Our state of the art kitchen is vital to many of our fellowship and community mission programs. Our renewed Great Hall is used daily and classroom space is filled nightly. Our renovated youth lounge provides a comfortable space for our teens and preteens to gather, learn, and grow in faith and fellowship. When we walk into our beautiful church home, it is easy to see the signs of our vibrant community of faith--worshiping, learning, supporting, and serving together. We have, indeed, filled these bricks and mortar with the love of Christ.

We are also richly blessed to have an outstanding new Head of Staff in Stephanie, a dynamic new interim director for children and youth ministries in Aaron, and an exceptional pastor for congregational care in Melinda. With the dual APNC in action, we will soon be fully staffed so that we can return to operating at full strength. Our new facilities make it possible to support our existing ministries in powerful ways: giving us the space to host multiple adult education classes every Sunday; enhancing and nearly doubling our preschool; providing a home for our sister congregation; enhancing our youth spaces; increasing our fellowship spaces; and allowing us to reach out to the community through dinners, providing meeting space for groups like the Boy Scouts, as well as hosting cultural events like the Wooster Scot Band. As we continue to grow into and pay off the expansion and renovation we will be able to do even more.

The building and remodeling project cost \$3.2 million. Congregational commitment to our first two campaigns has been faithful and inspiring. Despite launching our first campaign while the country was still feeling the effects of the Great Recession, we saw unprecedented giving. The first campaign, Stepping Forward in Faith raised \$1.5 million. The balance of the cost of the project, approximately \$1.7 million was financed. Our second campaign, Next Steps, launched in 2015 and raised over \$800,000 to service and prepay the debt. Having fulfilled the first two campaigns, we are now launching our

third campaign, ***Legacy & Leadership***, with the aim of debt reduction. The Campaign will run April 8-June 3 and will solicit pledges for a **three-year commitment** with a **goal of raising \$1 million**.

Aggressively paying down our debt is the focus of this campaign. The enthusiasm our new space brought and the ability it gives us to do God's work remains a worthwhile investment. But every dollar we pay in interest to the bank is a dollar we cannot put towards our mission work, programs, staff, maintaining the beautiful new building, or even further improving our facilities.

We spend over \$134,000 each year in mortgage payments. All the debt payments currently come from Capital Campaign contributions and are not part of our annual operating budget. Thanks to generous donations in the first two campaigns, a \$1.5 million down payment and over \$430,000 in prepayments to the loan have already been made. Retiring the debt early will save us interest expenses and free up these financial resources to expand our ministries, programs and outreach as we grow, fully staffed.

In the past, members of our congregation stepped up in unprecedented numbers in response to inspiring lead donations, which allowed us to meet our goals. We have set a big target. A successful campaign paying off our mortgage will leave a legacy for FVPC that is bigger than being debt free—it will give us the financial freedom to live our mission and demonstrate our commitment to our church and our faith. Our generous lead givers have made advance commitments of over \$500,000 getting us more than half way to the goal of this campaign. To accomplish this goal, we are asking you to prayerfully consider giving what you did in the second campaign, and more if possible, choosing to lead FVPC into a debt-free future.