

Capital Campaign

FAQ



1. **Why are we doing this now?**

Now is the time for us to set the course for the next 30+ years of ministry at First Covenant Church. New people are coming to church, meeting Jesus through our people and programs, and getting involved in our community. Our staff and lay leadership are strong, cohesive and excited about this project. Attendance, giving and participation in Covenant Groups are increasing. And we have some deferred maintenance items that need to be addressed. In addition to those items, we are excited to dream big about how our building can be a tool to help people come to know Jesus more fully.

2. **What are the priorities and objectives of the project?**

We have determined the priorities for this project to be as follows (in order of importance):

- Better accessibility (handicap accessible bathrooms, larger gathering spaces, elevator near the front entrance)
- Update necessary systems (electrical, fire suppression, security, parking lot)
- Relocate offices to lower level to create a more welcoming and secure presence to our building
- Sanctuary updates (enhance worship capabilities and experience)

3. **How will we use new and renovated facilities to reach people?**

Buildings don't reach people, we do! The building has always been, and will continue to be a tool for us to use in reaching other people. Having said that, these updates will allow for easier movement throughout our building for all people, a more welcoming environment, and greater visibility from the street. We will have a building that matches the warmth and welcome of our people.

4. **Our building seems adequate. Shouldn't we focus our energy and resources for missions?**

We don't feel it is an either/or between updating our building and doing mission. Mission must continue to happen both in terms of our time and our resources. Giving to the building project must be above and beyond our normal giving.

5. **Will any of the money be used to improve the parking lot?**

Yes! Items we have been putting off like the parking lot and making sure the exterior brickwork are strong will be part of the project.

6. **Will more adult Sunday School / Bible Study classes be offered with the new space?**

Space for Covenant Groups for all ages and use of our building by outside groups like AA and Bible Study Fellowship will continue to be a priority during and after construction. We are likely to lose some classroom space due to the addition of new bathrooms. We will have to be flexible with how we organize our groups in the future.

7. How can I / we help?

The best way you can help is to pray for everything involved in this project and your role in it, participate in all of our conversations, give generously and sacrificially, and ask questions of the people who can answer them! The leadership of this campaign (Pastor Greg Applequist, Kyle & Susie Lennard, and Travis Nordstrom) and our church are open to whatever question or idea you have.

8. How much do we need to raise?

After a number of initial conversations our capital campaign Consultant thinks we can raise around \$1.5 million dollars. The architectural firm thought the cost to complete the list above would be closer to \$3.0 million. We are hopeful we get closer to the second number!

9. What if we don't raise enough money?

At this point there are three options in moving forward after we determine how much money we can raise:

- We only move forward with a project that would cost the amount we raise
- We incur debt to move forward with a larger project
- Some other option the Holy Spirit might give to us!

10. How and when will the members of FCC be able to provide input on the decisions to be made about the physical changes and updates to the building?

We will engage in conversations closer to early summer about what we will actually do with our building. The project itself, and all the details, will depend on how much we raise and what we, together, decide. The whole church will decide on the major objectives of the building project. We will then form smaller teams to work on the specific details.

11. How is the capital campaign organized?

We have three people who are co-chairing the campaign (Kyle & Susie Lennard and Travis Nordstrom). We have 10 teams working in areas like prayer, celebration events, follow up teams, communication teams, etc. Richard Rogers from Horizons Stewardship is our Consultant, and our staff are all very involved in working on the details.

12. What is the schedule for the capital campaign?

The leadership of the campaign has been identified and is starting to work. The public part of the campaign will begin in early March. Commitment Sunday, when we all bring our pledges forward, will happen May 5th in worship. Contributions can begin anytime, but we expect the bulk of them to begin later in May.

13. How long will the financial commitments for the capital campaign be?

We would like people to make 3-year commitments. We are glad to accept the money up front all at once, but 3 years is the normal term.

14. Can we give non-cash gifts?

Yes, in addition to cash gifts, we are able to receive gifts of stock, distributions from IRAs or 401(k)s and other options. You can contact Diane in the church office (402-391-2747) to ask other questions about non-cash contributions.

15. What will we do during construction?

There are many details yet to be determined around the logistics of construction. We are grateful to be working with BVH Architecture who has renovated many different churches. They understand how to structure construction projects so ministry continues while construction is ongoing.