

faqs

Frequently Asked questions

Q) What is the church attempting to do with the building project?

A) There are two basic components to the project. One component is to make needed repairs and remedy the deferred maintenance problems that are obvious to everyone and to replace the HVAC, plumbing and electrical systems that have served us well for many, many years but must now be replaced. The other component is to reconfigure and renovate the church buildings to make them a more effective instrument in carrying out our mission. The renovation and reconfiguration component will include entrances and welcoming areas, painting and lighting, classroom and lecture areas, elevators and better access, technological improvements, and new gathering areas and multipurpose meeting rooms.

Q) What are the implications of this project for our future ministry, vision, & mission?

A) In many ways, the church building, in its current state, hinders the carrying out of our ministry and mission. The congregation has cast a Vision for the future of this church that includes a welcoming, accessible, up-to-date, technologically sophisticated, environmentally conscious church facility that will have a transformative effect on our life together, our evangelism, our proclamation of the Good News, and our outreach to those in need in our community.

Q) Beyond the building, what do we expect this campaign to accomplish?

A) This Campaign will generate intangible benefits beyond simply renovating our facilities. We fully expect that this campaign will energize us and our church's mission and ministry for years to come. This campaign is ambitious and bold. We anticipate that this is a watershed moment in our history where we will say "Yes" to God's calling to be the church. We anticipate that our "Yes" will produce growth and opportunity for future generations of God's people in and beyond First Presbyterian Church.

Q) How much will it cost to Fulfill the Vision?

A) The infrastructure work alone will cost between four and five million dollars, and the balance of the work to renovate and reconfigure the facilities will be a similar sum. We expect the total cost of all parts of the needed work will be approximately \$9-11 million.

Q) What happens if we do not raise the entire amount?

A) Then we would need to prioritize the several aspects of the proposed work and defer some of it to a later time.

Q) What is the timeline for the Campaign?

A) The Campaign will be conducted this spring, culminating in Commitment Sunday, May 17, when members of the congregation will declare their commitment to Fulfilling the Vision by turning in their commitment cards at the morning worship service.

Q) Over what period of time may I pay my pledge?

A) We anticipate that pledges would be paid over 3 years, but some pledges may be paid over longer periods, depending on the wishes of those making the pledge.

Q) When does the giving period begin?

A) The formal period for receiving gifts will begin in July 2009, but gifts to the Campaign may be made at any time.

Q) Besides cash gifts, what other ways might I consider funding my pledge? **A)** Other gift vehicles are available besides cash, including appreciated assets. Financial advisors and accountants can help you decide what is best for you.

Q) When would the construction begin and when would it be complete?

A) Preliminary work, such as repairing the roof and waterproofing other parts of the structure, some of the infrastructure replacements and improvements, and possibly interior updating, will begin this summer. A project of this scope will significantly affect our operations. Virtually every area of our ministry will be affected by the project, including worship in the sanctuary. Flexibility and creativity will be the key as we continue the work of the church and its ministries through the construction phase. The target date for completion of the project is the middle of 2011.

Q) What kind of commitment will I be asked to make?

A) The goal of the campaign is for every member to make a "major gift." A "major gift" is one that is arrived at prayerfully, that challenges the giver's stewardship, and that reflects the giver's thoughtful planning. The amount of a major gift will be different for different people. A major gift will require an assessment and perhaps a rearrangement of the giver's priorities. Gifts to the Campaign will be above and beyond the giver's regular contribution to the church's annual operating budget.

Q) Why do I need to submit a commitment card?

A) We need to know the intent of our membership for participating in the campaign. It is also a way for us to be accountable to ourselves and to God.

Q) Who will receive a commitment card?

A) Everyone from kindergarten through adults will receive a card and will have the opportunity to make a commitment.

Q) How can I prepare for the decision about the amount of my pledge, both spiritually and financially?

A) Pray, give greater focus to your spiritual life, attend home gatherings to learn more about Fulfilling the Vision, read information provided, ask questions, discuss the project with other church members, and make your own financial plans for this project. Fulfilling the Vision is a once in a generation commitment to the life and work of our church. This campaign will allow each of us to seek a fresh understanding of what God would have us do to further his work at First Presbyterian.

Q) Is there a mission component in this campaign?

A) The entire Campaign is mission-driven. Our church's mission statement calls for us to Proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, To Live as a Welcoming and Nurturing Community of Faith, and To Serve Others In the Name of Jesus Christ and After His Example. Every dollar spent in this Campaign will further the mission of this church as reflected in our mission statement. The explicit Outreach component of the Campaign will create a dedicated space within the facility to better support the existing Outreach ministries of First Presbyterian Church to the community and the possible expansion of those ministries in new ways.