



FAQ

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
FREQUENTLY
ASKED QUESTIONS

Index of Questions

THE MISSION/VISION & BACKGROUND

- What is the church's mission?
- What is the church's vision?
- What is the vision for the campaign and its related projects?
- How does that help us live into the church's vision?
- How does the location of our church play into our strategy to serve the community?
- What is the purpose of the campaign?
- How did we arrive at the decision to have a capital campaign?
- How long has it been since our last capital campaign?

THE PROJECTS

- How did we come up with the various projects and renovations that are being proposed?
- Who will be handling the budgets and financial aspects of each project?
- If we don't raise the full amount, what project will be started first?
- Can I give to a specific project area, rather than to just the overall campaign?
- What financial effect will the projects have on daily operating expenses?

FUNDING PROJECTS & FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT

- How much money are we trying to raise in this campaign?
- What will happen if the entire one million dollars isn't raised?
- Is borrowing an option?
- What will happen if we raise more than one million dollars?
- What about the Dovey Fund?
- How will we raise funds needed?
- When will I be invited to pledge to the capital campaign?
- Will my pledge be confidential?
- How do I decide how much to give to the Capital Campaign?
- What if I reduced the amount I regularly give to give more to the capital campaign?
- What are the various ways I can 'give' to the campaign?
- If my financial or job situation changes, could I reduce my pledge later?
- What if my situation changes and I can't fulfill my pledge?
- How will Capital Campaign finances be managed?
- Whom should I contact if I have further questions about finances?

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the church's mission?

We glorify God and make disciples by creating experiences that connect us to Christ and inspire us to serve.

We live that out through our Open Doors, Open Hearts, and Open Hands.

What is the church's vision?

Our vision is to create transformative environments in a supportive community that teaches and models a redemptive way of living where every person awakens to God's love in Christ working in us, among us and through us.

What is the vision for the campaign and its related projects?

How does that help us live into the church's vision?

We are tuning up our programming, our buildings, and our strategies to be ready for the future into which God is leading us as a church as we seek to live into our vision fully.

The Growing Connected Capital Campaign has three parts:

- 1) A Vision of Expanded Ministry & Mission
- 2) A Vision of Increased Hospitality and Security
- 3) A Vision of to Create a lasting Legacy

You can read more about each of these in the campaign brochure and on our website.

How does the location of our church play into our strategy to serve the community?

We are blessed to have inherited a campus of buildings strategically located in the heart of our Township. The campus is literally and figuratively at the "intersection of faith and life in our community." We also benefit from having a wonderful reputation in our community are, known as a church that "serves the community." Opening our space to the community has been part of the ministry of this church since its founding. Other than the local schools, we have the most considerable facility space in the township and the only centrally located facility that draws the greater community in for a whole multitude of reasons.

What is the purpose of the campaign?

The purpose of the campaign includes a financial goal and a spiritual quest. The financial goal is to raise the capital necessary to ready our buildings for the next chapter. The spiritual quest is a calling to increasingly grow connected to God and one another in the church, working together toward a God-infused vision of future ministry and mission.

How did we arrive at the decision to have a capital campaign?

Over the years, the Property Team has generated a list of repairs needed across our campus that fall outside the scope of the operating fund and Property Team budget. Consistory decided to wait until the historic preservation work was completed on the exterior of our three historic buildings before going to our congregation to do work inside our buildings.

The Consistory also didn't want to go to the congregation to fund a list of needed repairs and improvements. They wanted it vision-driven. So, individuals, groups, and leaders in our church spent a season of conversation (about 18 months) talking about where God is calling our church to go in the short-term and long-term future (3 to 10 years). We studied our current statistics, assessed our ministries, and asked difficult questions. We developed a vision and then asked, "What needs to change on our campus for us to fully live into that vision?" With the clarity of vision, a project list as developed and has been refined.

How long has it been since our last capital campaign?

It has been 18 years since the congregation was last asked to pledge for a capital campaign at FRC.

Some may remember a “Vision Campaign” we had eight years ago. That raised funding for ministry - a pastoral staff position and some innovative programs (including Mosaic). It also allowed us to transform a couple of spaces for multi-purpose, i.e., the Gathering Place and Choir/Music Room.

The Projects

How did we come up with the various projects and renovations that are being proposed?

The Property Team has been assessing the church's much needed essential repairs over the last few years. As mentioned above, the consistory and others in our church spent some time envisioning where God is leading us as a church. Finally, we reached the point of saying “let's go.” With the help of architects, contractors, and many wise people in our congregation, we compiled a list that we believe supports the church's vision for the future. We also think it is a thoughtful list that is not a pipe dream concerning cost. Advisors to the church indicate that we are within a typical range for what a church this size could raise in capital.

Who will be handling the budgets and financial aspects of each project?

The Finance Team will approve and monitor the project budget. The Project Leader will be responsible for ensuring that project costs are within budget and to advise the Finance Team if there are any changes to the project cost. The Finance Team will regularly update the Consistory on project expenses.

If we don't raise the full amount, what project will be started first?

Consistory approved the Capital Campaign project lists and priorities. The plan is to have 100% of the project financing available before the project begins.

Can I give to a specific project area, rather than to just the overall campaign?

Gifts that will cover the entire cost of a project can be specific to that project. Since 100% of the project expense is funded, the project can begin as soon as resources are available.

What financial effect will the projects have on daily operating expenses?

Some of the projects will create energy efficient environments that are expected to offset incremental utility costs.

Funding Projects & Financial Oversight

How much money are we trying to raise in this campaign?

Our target is \$1,000,000 based on the estimated project costs and contingencies. As that money is given to the church over the next three years (2019 - 2021), it will go toward the projects that are part of our campaign. We will do some of the projects (Friendship Hall) in stages. Each of the stages of the projects must have full funding from contributions before the project is started.

What will happen if the entire one million dollars isn't raised?

Each of the major projects has been designated with a specific amount to be raised to complete that project. Some projects have been broken down into stages. The Consistory prioritized the projects across the campus, with those needing immediate funding and repair at the top of the priority list. Then, aspects of each project have also been prioritized.

Is borrowing an option?

We will not borrow to raise the necessary funds for a Capital Campaign project. Thanks to the financial generosity of past and present generations as well as sound financial management of resources, we are in the fortunate situation of owning all our buildings and have successfully avoided large capital repair and improvement debt. We would like to continue to avoid any debt.

What will happen if we raise more than one million dollars?

Wow! That would be nice! Any extra will go into a designated fund to be used for future capital repairs and improvements.

What about using the Dovey Fund for the projects?

Some people may not know about the Dovey fund. The Dovey Fund is an unrestricted fund established in 2001 from a bequest by Alfred E. Dovey. The Dovey Fund has been used to advance the ministry of FRC in two ways:

- 1) Mission received a one-time gift of 10% of the Fund when the gift was received.
- 2) The balance of the Dovey Fund has been and continues to be used for FRC's capital projects that support FRC's ministry.

Currently, the net income generated from the Dovey Fund principle goes toward property repairs and maintenance. It is already enhancing our property. That is how we can use the member's contributions toward other ministry and missional needs. However, in good faith, we also wanted to use the Dovey fund to benefit the needs of the Capital Campaign and emerging vision. So, consistory voted to withdraw a total of \$150,000 from the Dovey Fund to contribute to the Capital Campaign. This withdrawal represents a pledge of \$50,000/year for the three years of the Capital Campaign.

How will we raise funds needed?

We are asking each household in the congregation to make a pledge to be given over a three year period (2019 to 2021). For some, that will be a weekly or monthly contribution given over the three year period. For others, that would be three annual contributions. However, there are some who will choose to give their entire pledge in one or two lump contributions at any time.

When will I be invited to pledge to the capital campaign?

On Sunday, November 18th in worship, every household in the church will be given the opportunity to pledge. If you can't be present that day, you can pledge online through our web page www.firstreformedchurch.com. You could also send in a pledge to our Finance Manager, Dolores Wagoner via note or email (dolores@frc-pp.org). For the sake of budgeting the work, we hope to have all pledges by December 31, 2018.

Will my pledge be confidential?

Yes, unless you choose to share this information with others.

How do I decide how much to give to the Capital Campaign?

That's between you and God. There is a scripture passage that says that "Not everyone has been blessed in a similar way." Sacrificial giving is an element of the Christian faith. Whatever amount you give will represent something that is a heartfelt spiritual decision and not simply an afterthought or an obligation. We have also created a "Generosity Guide" with steps to help you make that decision.

What if I reduced the amount I regularly give to give more to the capital campaign?

Quite frankly, our ministry would suffer. Regular financial contributions are the lifeblood of our church. Because we believe God has called us to the ministries, community outreach, and missional endeavors we're currently involved in, continuing to fund those through regular giving is incredibly important. So, whatever you pledge to the Capital Campaign would be above and beyond regular giving.

What are the various ways I can 'give' to the campaign?

A financial donation is the most common way, but you can also give real estate, stocks, bonds, life insurance policies, income tax refunds, or gifts-in-kind consisting of supplies, furniture, construction materials, etc. that support the Capital Campaign projects. There are many ways to give. Our Generosity Guide brochure provides ideas and guidance on giving. You can view the brochure by visiting our website, firstreformedchurch.com, or contacting the office at office@frc-pp.org.

If my financial or job situation changes, could I reduce my pledge later?

Yes, we understand that a pledge is faith-based. Just send our Finance Manager, Dolores Wagoner a note or email (dolores@frc-pp.org) describing the requested change to your pledge. She will adjust your pledge. No questions asked.

What if my situation changes and I can't fulfill my pledge?

We ask that you pray about what you could give. If you determine you can't give at this time, then give your enthusiasm, influence, and prayer to support this campaign. Pray for your pastor, leaders, staff, and other members as they take a step of financial faith. If possible, the gift of your time to help with projects would be appreciated.

How will Capital Campaign finances be managed?

The Finance Team will govern the Capital Campaign finances as established in FRC Policy and Procedures Section 20, Financial Procedures. They will also oversee the financial governance of all projects as found in Capital Campaign Financial Governance document. Both documents are available. Simply contact Dolores Wagoner, Finance Manager, at dolores@frc-pp.org.

Leadership Teams & Contact Info.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN LEAD TEAM

Chairperson - Paula Bencsko	pbencsko@gmail.com (973) 632-0213
Prayer Team - Rose & Frank Chara,	frchara40@optonline.net
Communications Team - Barbara Kalavik & Rich Valle	bkalavik@yahoo.com
Finance Team - Bryan Pennington	bryanpenn@optonline.net
Home Gathering Coordinator - Nancy Grimбилas	ngrimбилas@optonline.net
Large Gathering Co-Coordinators - Laura & Todd Taylor with Stephanie & Rich Rossow	lauratodd@optonline.net srossow13@gmail.com

FRC CAMPAIGN STAFF

Rev. Kathleen Edwards Chase, Lead Pastor	kathleen@frc-pp.org (973) 835-1144 (x12)
Dave Sipple, Director of Youth & Family Ministry	dave@frc-pp.org (973) 835-1144 (x28)
Vicky Werr, Office Administrator	Vicky@frc-pp.org (973) 835-1144 (x11)
Dolores Wagoner, FRC Finance Manager	dolores@frc-pp.org (973) 835-1144 (x14)
Elaine Bednarek, FRC Assistant Finance Manager	elaine@frc-pp.org (973) 835-1144 (x14)

FINANCIAL CONTROLS OF CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Bryan Pennington, Finance Team Leader	bryanpenn@optonline.net
Pat Phillipson, FRC Treasurer	
Amy Slufik	
Roy Okma	
Dave Grimaldi	
Dave Hilliard	

CONSISTORY (2018-19)

Kerri Palen, Vice-President	kerrilpalen@yahoo.com (201) 787-6785
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Angela Kohle, Elder	atkohle@gmail.com
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Tom Kamp, Deacon	kampini@optonline.net

CAMPAIGN PROJECT LEADERS

Friendship Hall - Gene McKeown	Sanctuary & Breezeway - John Driesse
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CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PRAYER TEAM

Frank & Rose Chara, Co-Chairs	Kathleen Pennington	Eileen Bundz
Linda Rooney	Eileen Bundz	
Linda Wilson	Jane Testa	
Lynn & Dave Rayner	Sharon Hollick	