



COMING TOGETHER • LIFTING UP • REACHING OUT

FAQ

- **What is a Capital Campaign?**

A Capital Campaign is a way for congregations to raise funds for accomplishing large projects that cost more money than a congregation could generate through increases in annual giving. During a capital campaign, members are asked to consider making an additional commitment, over and above their regular giving to the congregation, in order to fund the project.

- **How does my pledge to the Capital Campaign affect my annual giving to the church?**

Your pledge to the Capital Campaign is a new and separate commitment, over and above your annual giving to the church's operating budget. All the money collected through the Capital Campaign will be used for the accessibility project. Remember - we still need your regular annual pledge. We hope that you will continue your regular annual pledge for 2024 at the same level as your 2023 annual pledge.

- **When will I make my Capital Campaign pledge commitment?**

We ask that you submit your pledge during our Capital Campaign season which begins on October 1 with our Kickoff Event, and concludes on November 12th, designated as Celebration Sunday. Some Advanced Gift pledges have already been made known to our campaign treasurer. Most of you will be contacted by a Family Gifts Team member to arrange a visit. At that visit your confidential pledge will be received after you seal it in an envelope addressed to our treasurer.

- **How much should I give?**

This is a personal decision, and the answer is different for everyone. In terms of the magnitude of the giving needed, our campaign goal is roughly three times our annual budget. We ask you to reflect on the blessings God has given you and to pray for discernment about your gift. We believe the Capital Campaign Team has made an earnest effort to inform, encourage, and inspire each of us to give generously and sacrificially.

- **How long do I have to complete my Capital Campaign pledge?**

The commitment can be spread over three years, and you may choose the option that's best for you in terms of the timing of your gift. Some may give the entire gift upfront, others may do monthly, quarterly or annual payments.

- **What happens if I make a Capital Campaign pledge and my financial situation changes before it has been fulfilled?**

A Capital Campaign pledge is not legally binding. It is a gift; one you have made through your own discernment process with God. We ask that you do your best to fulfill your pledge and advise us of any changes that may affect your commitment. We will work with you to make adjustments. If your situation changes for the better, you can increase your pledge!

- **Can I give a thing? (Car, boat, real estate, art...)**

Those who would like to give in this way are asked to contact a member of the Capital Campaign Team to explore options to convert non-cash assets.

- **How can I maximize the tax benefit from my contribution?**

The answer is different for each individual/family. We strongly suggest you speak with a financial advisor about your specific situation. Here are a few topics to consider:

- *“Bunching” is the term for making several years’ worth of contributions in one year to maximize the tax deduction.*
- *Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) are direct contributions to the church from your retirement account that are excluded from your taxable income. There are age restrictions and limitations to this option.*
- *Gifts of appreciated stock (directly to the church or through a Donor Advised Fund) may allow for both a tax deduction and the avoidance of capital gains tax.*
- *Insurance policies with a cash value or annuities can be gifted to the church.*
- *If you’d like to discuss this topic further with a Capital Campaign Team member, please reach out.*

- **If we don’t raise enough money, can I get my donation back?**

No, your gift cannot be conditional upon the church meeting its fundraising goal. However your gift must (and will) be used to fund the accessibility project, even if it takes longer for us to reach our goal than we’d hoped.

- **Will the church utilize a construction loan?**

Unless we wait until all the pledges have been collected (three years!) to break ground there will be a need for short-term financing during the construction phase. This is a normal practice for capital campaigns. With the use of proceeds from the sale of the Parish House and ongoing collection of pledged funds, we have confidence that construction can begin in Spring 2024. Our hope is to minimize both the time span and the amount of any borrowing.

- **Will the church have a mortgage?**

Our goal is to fully fund the project with collected pledges. The Capital Campaign Team may make recommendations regarding financing options beyond the construction phase, but has no authority to make decisions. Those decisions belong to the congregation.

- **Will this project move forward if we do not reach our goal?**

If we do not meet our fundraising goal within the planned time frame, we still have options, including extending the fundraising timeframe, an additional campaign, reducing the cost of the project, and financing/borrowing options. We will be transparent about our process and our recommendations. The congregational vote affirming this project was nearly unanimous. We will achieve this with God’s help!

- **Will my pledge be confidential?**

YES. All pledges will be kept confidential. Only the person responsible for maintaining the records, the campaign treasurer, will have access to your pledge. After making your pledge, you will receive an acknowledgement in the form of a handwritten card. These cards were prewritten by helpers from the steering team to lighten the treasurer’s load of handwriting them all. Only the treasurer is responsible for mailing the cards as pledges are received.

If you have any further questions, please reach out to Bebe 978-302-9747, or Bob Goudey 978-496-0973.

*Lord, it is out of your infinite abundance that You give to me.
It is out of abundance that I give back to You and I am faithful that abundance will remain.*