



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LAKE JACKSON, TEXAS

Place of Grace

CAPITAL COMMITMENT CAMPAIGN

MARCH 3, 2019

Questions & Answers

"And in that place many believed in Jesus" – John 10:48

What is the *Place of Grace* campaign?

This is to be a three-year pledge of gifts **over and above our current giving to the operating budget**. The rationale is that it's easier to give a hundred dollars per month for 36 months than it is to give \$3,600 all at once. Some folks will give less and others will give more. Some will give each month and others once a year. A few will give a single lump-sum. Each person will be asked to prayerfully consider how he or she should participate. Every gift will be considered a blessing. **The purpose of the campaign is to improve and extend the life of the facilities over and above the regular maintenance covered by the operating budget - without borrowing money.**

Why do we need it?

Our church home is one of our most important tools for ministry. It is a place where we pray, worship, study the Bible, give, serve, support each other and witness our faith. One of the ways that we exemplify our love for God is in how we keep up God's house. Our congregation just celebrated the 75th anniversary of this church. Unfortunately, some of our facilities show their age all too well. There are many areas in our building and on the church grounds that are in need of renovation and updating. These include a severely worn parking lot, cracked floor tiles, drooping ceilings, inadequate and even ugly lighting, worn carpets, outdated technology and a 60 year-old boiler. There are also some projects that would make the church a safer place for those who worship here. Our approach, like John Wesley's, is to make wise financial decisions that will give the most value and provide practical use without pretense or luxury.

Don't we spend a lot of money on maintenance every year? If so, why do we need a capital campaign?

Yes, we do spend quite a bit on maintenance every year, however, items wear out over time and need to be replaced. For example, each time the boiler is repaired, it is paid for out of the church's operating budget. On the other hand, replacing the boiler is not covered by the operating budget. That is a capital expense and would be paid for with funds designated for capital improvements. The decision on whether to replace or repair is based on two questions:

- ⇒ Which is more cost effective?
- ⇒ Can we afford it?

It's been determined by the Trustees that it is more cost effective to replace instead of repair in each of the 85+ projects, however, we currently do not have the funds; thus, the need for the *Place of Grace* campaign.

What is our campaign goal?

Our first goal is to have 100% congregational participation because the spiritual growth that can come out of such a campaign is enormous. Secondly, our financial goal is \$500,000. While this is a great deal of money, a church of our size and means should be able to raise over two million dollars, if needed. Every time a project is funded, we will have reached a goal. Of course, our ultimate goal is to complete all 85+ projects. That will take \$500,000.

Will we be getting a bank loan?

No. We do not plan to get a loan from a bank or any other lending institution for that matter. We will expend funds only when we have the cash in hand.

What if we don't raise enough money?

We will complete whatever projects we can until the funds run out.

What if we raise more than is needed?

If we receive more than we need to complete the current list of projects, then the excess will be held in the Trustee Fund, an account designated for capital improvements, and will be used to make additional improvements to our facilities at some point in time.

Who decides which projects are needed and the priorities?

The church's Board of Trustees are tasked with determining which projects will be undertaken and when. The Interior Committee will be responsible for choosing colors, selecting flooring, and other features that determine how the building will look.

Will more projects be added or the priorities be changed?

It is likely that someone will come up with a need that has been overlooked. For instance, the Safety team may point out an area that needs immediate attention, or the boiler may die next winter, Should situations like those occur, it is likely that priorities may change. The Trustees plan to start out with the current prioritized list and stick to it as long as it makes sense, however, please be assured that they will not sacrifice the needs of the congregation for the sake of sticking to a list.

How can I give and when?

Like all church gifts, capital fund donations are tax deductible. You can contribute the same way as well - (ie: cash, check, online payments, stocks, real estate, etc.). Contact the church office for more information. Consecration Sunday for the campaign will be March 3rd, which will mark the beginning of the three year pledge. Donors will be asked to begin giving toward their commitment as soon as it is personally feasible to do so. Everyone is encouraged to contribute toward the entire campaign and not designate their donations for specific projects. Our Board of Trustees have prioritized the projects based on what they believe is best for the church.

How will the campaign funds affect church operating?

Capital fund donations are above and beyond regular Sunday giving, so we do not expect to see any decrease in the Sunday offering. In other churches, similar campaigns have actually caused increases in giving to the operating budget by raising the sights of the congregation and bolstering their commitment to the church.

Does the congregation support the *Place of Grace* campaign?

Yes! The Trustees polled the congregation twice and received overwhelming support – nearly 10 to 1 for the campaign. A few folks have already made contributions to reflect their firm belief that this campaign is necessary.

Who will conduct the *Place of Grace* campaign?

Deana and Andy Wheeler will serve as chairpersons for the campaign. They will be assisted by nearly 100 volunteers and every member of our congregation is encouraged to participate in the following five ways:

- ⇒ Pray – Pray for the Spirit to guide the church and you in this endeavor.
- ⇒ Presence – Attend worship services and, if asked, training events.
- ⇒ Pledge – Make a 3-year pledge as guided by the Holy Spirit.
- ⇒ Participate – Accept leadership roles and welcome those who visit you.
- ⇒ Positive - Be positive and enthusiastic as a witness to Christ!