March 11, 2013

Dear Fellow Laborer,

This is an exciting time for us at The Church On The Way! We are embarking upon a new direction, ignited with a passion to move forward in new, creative and exciting ways. The book of Acts is filled with church growth and expansion. Growth came easy sometimes, yet painful during other seasons in the Early Church. But even during the challenging seasons, “The Word of God grew and multiplied” (Acts 12:24).

New church plants have and will continue to flow out of TCOTW. This is a sign of good health and Kingdom-building. Dozens of churches have been and are still being impacted through ministries we have birthed.

In recent weeks you have heard me reference a “Moving Forward” campaign for our church. As we embrace the future together, I am excited to let you know how you can help in our new efforts to reach our community and our world. I ask that you please take a few minutes to read the details of this important initiative:

- Overview of “Moving Forward”
- Purpose of “Moving Forward”
- Goals of “Moving Forward”
- Your Role in “Moving Forward”

Overview of “Moving Forward”
The Moving Forward campaign is a series of connected events that will be launched on Palm Sunday, March 24. This campaign is designed in such a way as to build on the past victories while at the same time identify and address specific things that will help us achieve future successes in our church’s local and global mission.

Purpose of “Moving Forward”
The mission of our church is to “Evangelize, Educate, Elevate, and Embrace” the world around us. We are launching the Moving Forward campaign to advance this mission by addressing four areas, defined as: Reach, Renovate, Reserve, and Ready. (1) First, our reach continues to be solid, established in past years under gifted leaders who so courageously and admirably led our church. Our desire is to continue expanding that reach into our circles of influence, community and world where we see great opportunities. Over the past four decades, our church has given generously to many ministries, natural disasters and evangelistic outreaches. Currently, in this present season, we are broadening that reach to include an increased focus on where we live—our neighborhood. Many need our help locally, and we have already begun addressing some of these needs. (2) Our second area of focus is to care for our “well loved” campus, through renovations, repairs, upgrades and improvements of our buildings and meeting spaces. This highly visible component of Moving Forward will provide practical opportunities for many who will be able to give of their time and expertise through project-related work. (3) We are replenishing our reserves in order to continue expanding our reach, and (4) we must ready ourselves for future developments and opportunities to serve our local congregation and community for decades to come.

Goals of “Moving Forward”
Moving Forward is a unique campaign that brings together our English and Spanish congregations for the first time in a combined effort. We are moving forward together to see the best future for both congregations! There are many ways we can help each other, and one way is through our shared resources and financial support of one another’s dreams.

For these reasons, we anticipate God working through His people – you and me – to provide for the vision He has given us! The overall goal for the Moving Forward campaign will be to see hundreds of people engaged in the vision and to receive $3 million in gifts over the next two years.
You will be pleased to know that we have already begun to move forward towards these goals! We are currently reaching our local and global community in many ways:

• Over $15,000 has been given to provide school supplies at three of our local schools.
• At our “Back to School Block Party” last August, hundreds of children received backpacks and supplies. (We have another one scheduled for this summer.)
• We’ve begun to renovate our children’s and youth spaces on both the West and East Campuses.
• Nine World Teams are projected for ministry and medical services around the globe this year.
• Thousands of homeless people are being fed in the Cornerstone building each year.
• We have won over 180,000 souls to Christ in our history; 3,000 in this past year alone!
• We have welcomed 150 new people into our church family since September 2012.
• We are partnering with La Iglesia En El Camino and other ministries to reach this city and the world for Christ.
• Pastor Dan Hicks and I will both be travelling to different parts of the world conducting National Pastor and Leader Conferences in Bulgaria, Indonesia, and other possible locations this year.

These are just a few of the evidences that we are already “Moving Forward” and continuing to extend our reach and expansion of God’s Kingdom. We will provide updates on our progress throughout the campaign. Stay tuned!

**Your Role in “Moving Forward”**

As we make these strides forward, I am asking for your partnership with this campaign over the next two years. Your commitment begins by making a “faith promise.” You might ask, “What is a ‘faith promise?’” It is really quite simple. You prayerfully determine an amount that you want to designate to Moving Forward. This amount is different from your tithe and your regular giving. In completing your card, you simply indicate an amount that you promise to give by faith that is above and beyond your normal budget. For example: you may typically give a tithe of 10% of your income; additionally, a faith promise says, “Believing God will provide, by faith, I promise to give $X,000 above my regular giving to the Moving Forward campaign over the next two years.” Then watch the Lord provide it in unexpected ways: a check in the mail, an unanticipated refund, an unexpected bonus, etc. And you set those “faith gifts” aside for the Moving Forward campaign. Then we celebrate together the variety of ways the Lord helps us to meet our goals!

Please take the enclosed Faith Promise card, and over the next few days pray about what your part will be in helping to fund the Moving Forward campaign. **Then bring the completed card and your first gift on Palm Sunday, March 24, and together we will watch God provide!**

*I want to make a special appeal to those of you who have construction and trade-related businesses or skills. We need your help!* In the weeks ahead we are pulling together a task force to help us coordinate and implement hundreds of volunteers to renovate and repair our campus and facilities through work days and projects.

I believe that by faith and together as one grand congregation, we will witness the Lord provide miraculously through us as we commit to His Kingdom purposes for today and tomorrow.

With highest respect and deepest love for you,

Ricky Temple, Lead Pastor

Enclosure: Faith Promise Card

**PS:** *If you’re unable to attend on Sunday, March 24,* please bring your Faith Promise card to the next service you attend, or mail it to the church’s Finance Office – or submit your Faith Promise online at www.tcotw.org.