

“Building Community Inside and Out”

Faith Campaign Case Statement

First Presbyterian Church, Greenwood, SC

Our Call: Go to the people and make disciples for Jesus Christ

Christ’s call to the church today echoes his call to the first disciples: Go and give the good news of hope, meaning, and connection. Fulfilling this call requires the courage to hear the desperate cries of our society and meet them where they are. It is our time to answer the call for our generation.

For decades now, the relevance of the traditional model of the church has come under great scrutiny. At one time, simply having a sanctuary, classrooms, and teachers filled the church on Sunday morning. Today, this model rarely appeals to families crushed with busy schedules and meeting the demands of its members. In addition, the breakdown of the family system caused by extended families' dispersion across far geographical distances and cultural pressures has become a pandemic of epic proportions. People are hungry and thirsty for more than what our culture offers.

Our Bible is filled with powerful stories of people hearing God’s call to step out in faith. These stories and the stories of generations before us illustrate that *when people step out in unreasonable faith, big things happen*. The alternative of focusing on personal desires and self-preservation causes stagnation and irrelevance.

Our History: Serving Greenwood

FPC's journey began as an outpost of a small group of faithful Christians who stepped out in unreasonable faith to go where the people were. That new location in uptown Greenwood was a response to a need in the community to gather closer to town. Over the years, subsequent generations of FPC members have stepped out in unreasonable faith to provide a campus that meets our congregation's needs. As a result, we enjoy a beautiful facility today, but it is limited. We can provide seated spaces for study and worship, but we are limited to sedentary programming.

Our Need: Providing space for physical activity

We are an increasingly health-conscious and physically mobile society. Our culture places a high value on sports, health, and extracurricular activities. Our present campus plan provides limited ability for physical activity, hindering FPC's ability to serve our members and limiting our outreach to broader needs in our community. We believe adding a family life center focused on providing meaningful relationships and socialization will strengthen families and attend to the whole health of the congregation and community. We further

believe that it will open the door to Christ for people who would not usually be drawn to a traditional approach to church.

Our Solution: Constructing a family life center

We believe that to fully equip our congregation with a campus that meets its needs; we need to construct a family life center. This facility would contain a full-size gymnasium, ample meeting space, storage for equipment, a small kitchen, and office space for a coordinator. The proposed facility would be placed on the backside of the campus where Turner House once stood. The total cost of the project is \$4.5 Million. Admittedly, this is an ambitious goal as it represents 4 times the congregation's annual giving, but our church has already been blessed with an extraordinary \$500K gift to the project, which just happens to be the exact top gift amount necessary for our church to raise the whole \$4.5 Million. Further, because of lessons learned from Hurricane Helene, should we exceed this goal, those additional funds would go towards including generators and showers needed to provide emergency shelter.

Primary Function: The FLC is a larger, multi-purpose space that focuses on recreation, outreach, and broader community involvement. The FLC is well-suited for:

- **Sports and Recreation:** Hosting basketball, volleyball, Upward Sports, or fitness classes.
- **Youth Programs:** Large youth group meetings, summer camps, and retreats.
- **Community Outreach:** Offering after-school programs, community events, or fitness initiatives.
- **Classes and Workshops:** Space for financial literacy, health, or spiritual development classes.
- **Large Church Events:** Hosting bigger church events or conferences where a gymnasium setting works well. Congregational meals and receptions.
- **Exercise and Health Programs:** Yoga, aerobics, senior fitness programs, etc.

Our Campaign: More Than a Building

Our campaign is a faith campaign with three parts. First, it is a campaign to embolden us to listen to how God is calling us to the mission of our congregation and community. Second, it is a capital campaign to discern whether we have the financial resources to bring it to life. Third, we will use the family life center to open the doors to people who would normally not be drawn to a traditional approach to church and provide avenues of engagement for people of all ages.

Our Call to Prayer:

If we pray and sacrifice together, we'll have more than enough to do what God is calling our church to do. *"Dear Lord, what would you do through me to accomplish your vision for our church? Help me discern a meaningful and joyful sacrifice for our capital campaign."*