

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

When do I get a pledge card/make a pledge? Pledge cards will be included in the church bulletins on Commitment Sunday. We want the congregation members to have ample time to prepare for their decisions through prayer and to make their commitments collectively as an act of worship. If we do not hear from a family on Commitment Sunday, that family will receive a letter containing a commitment card in the mail, along with a follow-up phone call.

When do we know the totals? The announcement will be made two weeks after Commitment Sunday, during Celebration Sunday, in the worship services.

What if we do not get all the money? The church cannot make its best decisions about how to execute the projects until we have a clear understanding of the financial resources available. Once we know what resources we have to work with, our leaders will adjust the plan to present to the congregation. There are numerous options to achieve our project goals—phased building approaches, borrowing money to complete buildings now, etc. Projecting a definitive plan is speculative until we know what resources we can leverage. The crucial decision before us is what resources we can provide over the next three years. Obviously, as more money is raised, more options and better choices become available to us.

When do we start/complete project? The aggressiveness of our timeline depends on how much money we can raise. If we can secure close to our total in pledges, we can start work very soon. However, if less money is available, that timeline may look different based on which financial plan we can trust.

Is this the best time for a campaign? Our need is now. Our need is immediate—in fact, we have had this need for some time. This project would have been less expensive if it had been completed when we first discussed it years ago. If we don't get started now, then when and how will we ever respond? What would waiting another year or two cost us in lost opportunities? If not now, then when? If not us, then who?

What about the annual budget? Capital giving refers to contributions that exceed what individuals donate to sustain the annual ministry and mission of the church.

What is an average gift? What should a capital gift be? Stewardship is not about equal gifts, but about equal sacrifice. There is no formula for determining that pledge, nor is there an "average gift" benchmark. Instead of measuring your gift by the dollar amount, refer to the "measures" below.

- Does this investment make a difference *to me*? Does this gift change me, change my whole commitment level?
- Was this a prayerful decision seeking God's will ... did I even invite God to be a part of this decision process?
- Did I have a real conversation about this decision ... with my spouse, children, family, church family, etc.
- Did I learn something about commitment and giving? Did I take a step of faith that deepens my own discipleship?

- If everyone else in the church made a sacrifice equal to my own (in terms of commitment rather than dollars), would God be honored by that level of commitment/investment?

Can my commitment/pledge change? Yes ... a pledge is not a contract. If your circumstances change significantly, your commitment pledge should also adapt. Positive surprises occur at least as frequently as challenging ones.

Why make a pledge? The church will need to commit to long-term building plans (and possibly loan terms) during this campaign. Thoughtful, intentional pledges from the congregation are vital for the church to make wise decisions. If everyone in the congregation underestimates their commitment, the church might underbuild, leading to higher costs in the long run. Conversely, if people significantly overestimate their pledges, the church could take on more than it can manage.

I like the way we are ... why change? There's so much we already love about who we are as a church family. The relationships we've built, the traditions we cherish, and the ways we've grown together are such a blessing. Those things form the heart of our identity, and they're worth holding on to.

When we talk about this building project, it's not about changing who we are. It's about strengthening and expanding our ability to fulfill our mission and extend God's love. Think of it as enhancing what we already have so that we can serve even more effectively—whether it's creating more space for fellowship, providing a safe place for youth ministry, or opening our doors wider to those in the community who need support.

Change can feel daunting, but it's important to remember that growth often requires stepping out in faith. We can honor our past while also preparing for what God has planned for our future. This isn't about losing what makes us special; it's about making room to share that with even more people."