

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the goal of the Reach Beyond campaign?

Our goal is to retire the entire balance of the Christian Life Center mortgage. When the payments from the current campaign cease in June of this year, we will owe \$1.8M. We seek to pay the \$70,000 in annual interest through the operating budget, so that all monies given to Reach Beyond can go directly to the principal.

How do we still have so much left on the mortgage after all these years and all these campaigns?

Prior to 2018, no money from the operating budget went toward the mortgage. Therefore, the past capital campaigns were paying on principal and interest (P & I). Much like with your home mortgage, the first few years are very interest-heavy, preventing us from making more progress on the principal. Further, each campaign in the life of the Christian Life Center has divided the proceeds as follows: 70% to P & I, 20% to capital improvements/major repairs across our three sites, and 10% mission giving to capital projects at Trinity Las Americas in Des Moines, and capital projects such as clean water and new church buildings in Malawi, Africa.

How will we keep up on repairs on our three buildings without 20% of Reach Beyond?

Starting with the 2020 budget, Trustee and Finance Committees have begun to build into our operating budget a "Capital Improvement" line item. This budget line item will help us to save up for major repairs at all three sites. As our mortgage interest expense declines by aggressively paying on the principal, we will continue to budget \$70,000 per year, moving whatever is not needed for the interest into the capital improvement fund for major repairs. At the end of the campaign, we plan to continue to budget to save up for major repairs. In the meantime, the Trustees have been wise in the use of the current "20% Money" from previous campaigns and have a solid reserve in place. These reserved funds will serve as a bridge until the interest expense is eliminated.

How will we replace the 10% mission giving?

We needed a plan to replace the capital improvement and mission giving monies from capital campaigns once the mortgage was paid off. We are simply accelerating our planning! The Mission Cluster will provide opportunities throughout the year to continue providing funds to support Trinity and Malawi. The hope is mission giving will increase as we connect it to the stories of those who receive it.

Can we really pay this off in one campaign?

Our feasibility study with Horizons Stewardship indicated that we would get close. They projected that we would raise between \$1.2M and \$1.6M, which is a little short of our goal. Their estimate was conservative because, in the feasibility study, they did not see the lead (large) gifts indicated that would lead to success. Since the study, we have received several large commitments. The lead gifts we have received so far are significantly larger than we first anticipated, giving us not only great faith, but high confidence that we can reach the goal.

How can I/we help?

The best way you can help is to pray for everything involved in this project and your role in it, participate in our conversations, give generously and sacrificially, and ask questions of the people who can answer them! The leadership of this campaign (the pastors and our campaign chairs) and our church leaders are open to whatever question or idea you may have.

How is the campaign leadership organized?

We have three families serving as campaign co-chairs: Bryan and Nicole Schmidt, Glenn and Tracey Simmonds, and Brian and Wendy Deprez. We also have 10 teams working in areas like prayer, affinity groups, follow-up teams, communication teams, etc. Richard Rogers from Horizons Stewardship is our consultant, and our staff are all very involved in working on the details.

What is the campaign schedule?

We originally planned this campaign for April 19-May 10 of this year, but the arrival of COVID-19, the shut-down of indoor worship, and the instability of the economy, led us to extend the campaign to the fall. The leadership team continued to work and early commitments continued to come in. We have rescheduled the public part of our campaign to begin on September 20 and conclude with Commitment Weekend on October 10-11. Contributions can begin anytime.

How long will financial commitments of the campaign be?

We would like people to make a 3-year commitment. We are glad to accept the money all at once, but three years is the normal term.

Can we give non-cash gifts?

Yes, in addition to gifts of cash or checks, we are able to receive gifts from direct IRA minimum distributions or appreciated investments such as stocks, bonds, physical property, or securities. Contact your financial advisor for qualifying donations or the church office for further questions about non-cash donations.

Is this really a good time to do a campaign?

In a perfect world, we would love to have conducted this campaign during an economic boom with in-person worship. Having said that, there has never been a better time to encourage one another, to remember the faithfulness of God to this congregation, and to remind one another that God is at work in Ankeny First. Reach Beyond is actually a beautiful gift to Ankeny First in a season like this, and our leadership is in prayer that you feel blessed by the process.

What if we raise more than \$1.8M?

That's the spirit! We have begun to discuss this at Church Council and have some rough ideas. However, we have not designated any amounts or percentages, because we believe we should listen to the congregation prior to committing. This campaign is focused on gaining the freedom to pursue our mission of making disciples of Jesus without having to factor the mortgage into our ministry plans. Should we raise more, we would want to engage our donors in conversations about how to be most faithful to God and the donors' intent.