

Bower Hill Church
Capital Campaign
Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

What is a Capital Campaign?

A Capital Campaign is a special appeal for donations from members and friends of the congregation to pay for major physical improvements. We are planning a wide variety of projects, from windows and boilers to parking lots, playgrounds, and steeple repair.

Why are we making these improvements?

Everything being done is to renew our facility, creating a place where our ministries and missions are sustained and enriched.

How much is being raised?

\$600,000 for the following projects: steeple repairs for \$180,000; windows and boilers for \$220,000, parking lot repairs for \$50,000, playground and fellowship hall rehab for \$50,000, media initiatives at \$15,000, plus campaign costs of \$25,000 and contributions to 4 missions at \$60,000.

How will the money pledged to the capital campaign be spent?

Our first goal is to retire the bank line of credit we have used to pay for part of the steeple repairs. The other items will be funded as pledge contributions are received.

What if we raise more than \$600,000?

To the extent there are substantial additional funds raised during the capital campaign, the campaign leadership will return to the Session to prioritize the next phase of projects. A few examples of significant projects that would be considered are listed below:

- Improved building access for handicapped and less mobile members
- Sanitary facilities for those housed on church property including shower, renovated restroom facilities and washer/dryer
- Substantial additional commitment to missions as well as replenishing the McKee Scholarship Fund
- Funding for Music Ministries including Sponsorship for additional Music, Equipment and Performers
- Outdoor lighting
- Repair to concrete stairs, entrance/exits
- Signage

What about the annual budget?

Capital giving is, by definition, above and beyond what people give to support the annual ministry and mission of the church.

Will I be pressured to make a pledge?

Not in any way. Participation in the campaign and how much you give will be entirely up to you. All members and friends will be given the opportunity to contribute if they wish to do so.

When do I get a pledge card/make a pledge?

Pledge cards for the Capital Campaign will be turned in on Commitment Sunday, which is March 30, 2014. If we do not hear from a family on Commitment Sunday, the family will receive a letter with a commitment card in the mail and a follow-up phone call.

When do we know the totals?

The announcement will be made two weeks after Commitment Sunday, on Celebration Sunday, April 13, during the worship service.

What if we do not get all the money?

The steeple repair takes priority over everything else because that money has already been spent. All the other items in our list would be scaled back to the total amount pledged.

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" kind of benchmark. Instead of measuring your gift by the dollar amount, use 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, then your commitment pledge should also change. Good surprises happen at least as often as difficult surprises.

How may I prepare to participate?

Allow God to speak to your heart through prayer. Read Scripture passages that speak about stewardship and giving, such as 1 Corinthians 16:2, Proverbs 11:25, Proverbs 3:5-9, II Corinthians 8:7, Acts 20:35, Luke 6:38, and Psalm 116:12.

How long will my commitment be?

You are asked to make a three-year commitment.

If I can't give a large amount, does my pledge really matter?

Absolutely! All pledges matter, regardless of amount, because as we all participate according to our ability, God multiplies our giving.

What forms of contributions will be accepted?

Contributions can be made by cash or check. Other forms of contributions can include the transference of title to marketable stocks, bonds, real estate, etc.

May I update my commitment after Celebration Sunday?

Yes. You may update your commitment at any time.

Do you have to be a church member to participate in the campaign?

No. Participating in the campaign is a personal decision for each of us, and anyone may contribute to God's work in our church.

Why did we choose RSI?

RSI Consulting Inc. has 41 years of experience in working on capital campaigns solely for religious institutions. Their consultants have conducted over 10,000 campaigns that raised over \$10 billion. RSI has conducted over 600 campaigns for Presbyterian churches alone, raising in excess of \$900 million for them. RSI's approach is one that is centered around prayer and seeks to involve the entire membership in the campaign. This resonated with the culture and personality of Bower Hill Church and we are very pleased with their leadership to date.