



Forging our future

CAPITAL
CAMPAIGN
UPDATE

Forging ahead with **OUR DREAMS FOR PEOPLE'S**

BY REV. RACHEL LONBERG, MINISTER

'Young Church Leaders Aid Local Homeless Population.' ... 'Yet Another Community Organization Finds its Home at People's Church.' ... 'Welcome in: People's Church Welcomes Diverse Congregation.' ... 'From Shattered to Strong: People's Church Leads the Community Toward Wholeness.' ...

... These are just a few of the dreams for our church that were shared at the first mission and vision workshops. Though the details of our dreams are different, People's people are dreaming of a church that encourages them to grow their spirits and their intellects, a church that is expanding in members and programs, and a church that is increasing its positive impact on our wider community. We will definitely be forging ahead in new and powerful ways.

Forging Our Future is the theme your leaders have chosen for our spring joint operating and capital campaign. It is a beautiful choice, echoing and building on the *Feeding Our Flame* slogans of the past two campaigns. This community has successfully fed the flame. Over the past six years, our flame has been fed through your generosity with your time, talent and treasure.

We have expanded our building. (Everything south of the double doors in Foyer is new – the entrance, the lower level, offices, the information desk, and meeting rooms. As a newcomer myself, I struggle to imagine how everything fit inside our walls before.) This expansion increased our accessibility and our

capacity for religious education; church meetings; rentals to community organizations; and comfortable, air-conditioned worship in the summer months.

You all have navigated a ministerial transition. You have taught our values to our children in religious education, Sunday services, and other church activities. You have lived our values in how we do church together – welcoming newcomers, practicing self-governance, and the often unseen-committee work that is vital to our community. You have championed our values beyond our walls with partnerships with ISAAC, our commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability, resettling a family of refugees from Syria, and in so many other ways. Your commitments of time,

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upcoming events

Sunday, February 5
Steering Committee Meeting

Sunday, February 26
Steering Committee Meeting

Sunday, March 12
Campaign Kickoff

Sunday, April 16
Pledge Sunday

Spring Campaign to Support Multiple Priorities

BY ALLAN HUNT & MEGAN REYNOLDS, CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS

The Board of Trustees has approved a major fund-raising effort in the spring of 2017, and the Campaign Steering Committee has begun preparations for in.

FIRST, and most importantly, the 2017 stewardship campaign will raise funds to support the Annual Budget for all the activities at People's Church. We conduct such a campaign every year to fund church operations. Pledges to the Annual Operating Fund are paid over a 12-month period beginning in July of each year.

SECOND, this will be the last Capital Campaign to pay off our debt for the building construction and renovation to the church we completed in 2011. That project cost a total of \$1.5 million and after six years we have paid that debt down almost to \$500,000. One more three-year campaign should finish it off. Pledges

to the Capital Campaign are paid over three years; in this case from July 2017 through June 2020.

FINALLY, we plan to share further information with members regarding legacy gifts, focusing on what we at People's Church call "Perpetual Pledging." This program allows people to continue our support to People's Church after we are gone. Planned gifts like these, whether in the form of bequests, charitable annuities, or contributions of appreciated assets, strengthen our programming and sustain us in difficult seasons.

The **Forging Our Future** campaign will kick off March 12 and conclude on April 16. Volunteers are beginning to plan for the campaign, and we hope you will consider joining us in sharing your gifts to make our campaign a success.



Forging Our Future
kicks off **MARCH 12**
& concludes **APRIL 16.**

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talent, and treasure have made this possible.

At People's Church, the metaphorical flames are well-fed and stoked. We now have the chance to forge something new together, to use all of our precious resources and energy to identify and act from the place where our deep gladness meets the world's deep hunger. Through the mission and vision process, we will decide together what to forge in our flame. Please participate in the mission and vision workshops. Please start thinking about how you might be able to give of your money, your special skills, and your time to join in **Forging Our Future** together.

OPPORTUNITIES TO **HELP**

Please consider sharing your unique gifts by joining one of the campaign planning teams listed below. Each team will meet fewer than six times, and the work of most will be completed prior to our Annual Meeting in May. To lend a hand, please contact the team leaders given.



inspiration

Greg Feldmeier & Dyrk Hamilton

The Inspiration Team will help provide opportunities to put our goals into a larger context of vision and invite reflection.

communications

Kirsten Neely

The Communications Team will help keep the congregation informed about plans through newsletters, online media, pledge materials, and publicity.

events

River Artz-Iffland

The Events Team will be organizing one or more events to mark important points of celebration during the campaign.

ambassadors

Rochelle Habeck Hunt, Mackenzie Hatfield & Rick Johnson

The Ambassadors Team will make personal contact with all members and friends, ideally through one-on-one visits. Our goals are to deepen our relationships, provide information about the campaign and the pledging process, and encourage everyone's participation and support.

children & families

Ben Jones & Patrick Murray

The Children and Families Team will find ways to involve the children and youth as well as parents of RE children in meaningful and visible ways throughout the campaign.

gratitude

Beth Bullmer & Sue Caulfield

The Gratitude Team will make sure we honor all of the supporters of the campaign, whether they make a financial gift, volunteer, or provide support in some other way.

campaign steering committee

River Artz-Iffland

Tim Bartik

Beth Bullmer

Sue Caulfield

Barb Davis

Greg Feldmeier

Sue Glenn

Rochelle Habeck Hunt

Dyrk Hamilton

Mackenzie Hatfield

Allan Hunt

Rick Johnson

Ben Jones

Rev. Rachel Lonberg

Patrick Murray

Kirsten Neely

Megan Reynolds

Jeff Susor

questions & answers

How is a capital campaign different than our annual stewardship campaign?

The daily work and values of our church are advanced by the generous support of members and friends of our annual stewardship campaigns. Capital campaigns are intended to let People's Church tackle special projects beyond the scope of a single year's work. Our 2011 building expansion was funded by two previous capital campaigns that raised a total of more than \$1.2 million. The 2017 campaign will include a third and final capital request, payable over a three-year period, that we expect will finish paying for the facilities from which we have all benefited. Both gifts are essential to the life of the church – one to sustain our daily work and the other to support our long-term vision. It is important that any gift to the capital campaign is above and beyond your continued generous support for People's Church, not in place of an annual pledge.

What are legacy gifts, and how do they support People's Church's mission?

"I'd love to give a substantial gift to People's, but I need my money to live on right now." Since "you can't take it with you," some day you will not need that money. But the future People's Church will still need your support. Please consider including People's Church in your will or estate planning.

Our parking lot was paved and improved with an unrestricted bequest. Gifts to the Social Justice Endowment support our ARAOMC work and our work with ISAAC. Several members continued their annual pledge by leaving a bequest, insurance policy, or retirement fund to the Perpetual Pledge Endowment. Their presence is missed, but their financial support still continues.

How can I join in planning for the Our Shared Future campaign?

The year 2017 is a special one in announcing our vision as a church and inviting the support needed to make that vision a reality. As a result, this year's stewardship campaign will be more extensive than in typical years, and your help is needed, whether by serving as an Ambassador, helping with communications, or expressing thanks for the gifts that make our work possible. Please consider joining one of our six campaign teams. (See page 3.)



PEOPLE'S CHURCH
— of Kalamazoo —

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