



First United Methodist Church

Campaign News

Reflecting on Our Campaign Kick-Off

By Rev. Paul Akin,
Lead Pastor

Kick-Off Sunday for our Capital Stewardship and Fall Finance Campaigns was celebrated on Sunday, September 20. Many wonderful things took place that day: Joyce and Phil Leff, our Campaign Co-Chairs, shared their vision and hopes for the campaigns and for our future as a congregation; we introduced our 2009 Stewardship Prayer, and the Events Team made sure that everyone went home with a “sweet taste in their mouth” by providing cupcakes emblazoned with a red “R.”

Why was there an “R” on the cupcakes? As a reminder of the campaign slogan – **Renew. Rededicate. Rejoice.** Each of those profound “R” words offers us guidance on our path ahead:

RENEW – Through this campaign we are invited to renew, not just our building, but ourselves, individually and as a faith community, as we grow together in faith and in faithfulness and discover new purpose for our shared life together.

REDEDICATE – Likewise we are being invited to rededicate ourselves to fulfilling our mission as God’s people, living out even more fully our mission statement as Disciples of Jesus Christ, with a concern not just for ourselves but also for those we will be able



Prayer Walks

Join a member of the prayer team for a 20-minute reflective walk through our building as we consider how our plans for renewal will impact our ability to welcome people in love; equip people with a faith that works; and send us in service as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Sun., Oct. 4

Sun., Oct. 11

Sun., Oct. 18

Sun., Oct. 25

Save the Date

Youth Fundraiser Sunday, Oct. 11

Help the youth tape our Pastors to the wall! Funds raised will support our capital campaign.

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Campaign Kick-Off

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to reach out to more effectively through the mission endowment being created.

REJOICE – To discover, as we work, pray, worship, give and offer support to each other and to the campaign, that far from being a burden this endeavor we are undertaking is in fact a joy and one which will be cause for great rejoicing as we grow together in unity and in fellowship and as we celebrate what God has been able to do in and through us.

My hope and prayer, beyond any amount of money that is raised towards supporting our 2010 ministry budget or the remodeling and updating of our sanctuary building, is that each member and friend of our congregation will personally experience renewal of faith, rededication to serving God and God's purposes in the world, and the opportunity to rejoice in knowing that he or she has made a positive contribution to the life of our church and its mission.

How might this happen for you? Our Youth have already started to show the way! A couple of Sundays ago, they held a car wash in the alley after church and through the proceeds were able to donate \$234 as the first gift to our capital campaign. In a couple more Sundays, they (Gulp!) want to "tape the Pastors to the wall," as an additional fund-raiser. You won't want to miss that!

You also won't want to miss some of the other things that are happening in and through the campaigns. The Prayer Team is preparing to lead Prayer Walks throughout October after worship, taking people to each place in the church where remodeling is slated to take place and reflecting on our need and our vision. The Events Team will be scheduling small group and in-home informational meetings where members can come to speak and to listen as we present detailed information about our project and our campaign and answer questions.

Between now and Celebration Sunday, November 15, each and every member and friend of our congregation will be given ample opportunity to renew, rededicate and rejoice. Don't miss your chance to be a part of this important community-building, community-sharing endeavor in the life of our church.



The **Prayer Team** encourages all to hold our church and its future in their daily prayers using our 2009 Stewardship Prayer. We will also be leading Prayer Walks throughout the month of October, helping people to consider each aspect of our renewal project. Please make plans to join us for 20 minutes of walking reflection.

The **Events Team** wants to help all in our church to carefully consider our plans for ministry and renovation. We are organizing a series of events for small groups and in-home meetings open to the entire congregation. These will be an opportunity to learn about our plans and to share our collective hopes for our church. Watch for invitations and a list of upcoming events.

The **Thanks Team** wants to extend a word of appreciation for the many, many people who have already stepped forward to prepare for a successful fall campaign by offering counsel and sharing their gifts as team volunteers or event hosts.

The **Youth Team** is happy to announce that the youth have made the very first financial gift to our capital campaign through funds raised by our recent car wash. Join us on October 11 for our second fundraiser. Buy one or more strips of duct tape and help us suspend our pastors from the wall!

The **Ambassadors Team** will help share information through small group events and personal contact in the weeks ahead. We will host training sessions for ambassadors on October 20-21.

The **Communications Team** has prepared a logo for our fall campaign and continues to plan ways to share information about our plans as people consider their participation in our fundraising efforts.

Campaign Teams @ Work



Renew
Rededicate
Rejoice

Questions & ANSWERS

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS ONLINE:

Visit First Church's web site to learn more about our fall campaigns. There you can download past newsletters, gather more detailed information about our plans, and much more.

www.icfirstchurch.org



Have a question about our project you would like to have addressed? Email it to jeff@church-development.com or join us for an upcoming informational event to ask it face-to-face.

What are the primary elements of the building plan approved by the congregation?

In 2007 the congregation approved a renovation plan for our building that includes replacing our elevator, expanding the narthex at the rear of the sanctuary, adding a second restroom in the narthex, and renovating our kitchen and entranceways.

We subsequently learned of significant work required to maintain and protect the stained glass windows in the sanctuary. The Rose Window has already been repaired and paid for through a special fundraiser earlier this year. The work on the remaining windows is expected to cost \$200,000.

How will these renovations improve our ability to fulfill our vision?

These projects will build on First Church's legacy as a mission-oriented downtown church and prepare our church for many years of continued service to our community. The renovations will preserve the beauty of our worship space, provide improved access to the building for members with limited mobility, support informal fellowship by expanding gathering areas, and present more welcoming and easier to navigate entrances to visitors.

What is the total cost of our renovation plan?

Our current estimate is that our total plan will cost approximately \$1.25 million. This figure is based on our architect's best estimates to address maintenance and renovation priorities for the church as well as contingency funds, professional fees, and the establishment of a mission endowment. As we work with contractors to seek formal project bids, we will continue to update the congregation regarding a more detailed project budget.

When and how will we determine the scope of renovations to complete?

The congregation has voted to approve the full scope of renovations to be supported by this campaign and it is our intention to fully implement our plan for renewal. Ultimately, that decision is contingent on our ability to fund our plans and will be made by the Church Council following Celebration Sunday, November 15, with guidance from the Trustees and the Finance Committee.

What will happen to the Upper Room as part of our plans?

The Upper Room provides a valuable meeting and fellowship space for our church and will be retained, with the following changes. Plans call for replacing the permanent walls with movable partitions to allow us to use that space more flexibly. Between Sunday worship services we would plan to open the partitions to ease congestion in the narthex and encourage people to visit with one another. At other times, the Upper Room will continue to serve as a private meeting space.

Reflections

from our congregation

The upcoming financial campaign

is very important to our church if we are to successfully continue to move forward into the 21st century. Little has been asked of us in recent years in the way of major financial gifts, but now is the time. Each of us has our own priorities. We are “family” and should do what is best for all. Divided little gets done. Together we can move forward with the joy and satisfaction of “mission accomplished.” — *George Dane*

I've been thinking about what the Bible says about not hiding our light under a bushel. First United Methodist Church has so many “lights” to offer a faith community, and in many ways, we make those offerings very well. We've worked hard to ensure that everything from our worship to our missions to our community outreach efforts have continued to expand and grow to fulfill needs and make a difference in a changing world. What hasn't changed for many years is our physical structure and right now the limitations of our building are interfering with letting our light shine as much as it should, particularly in the areas of radical hospitality and of obvious invitation and welcoming to our church building. I'm excited about having the opportunity to move our church forward in this area as well as through our current campaign. — *Ronda Marshall*

I have been a part of the process for updating our building since 2005. I am looking forward to having a facility with a more modern interior which appeals to both visitors and members while retaining its promise as an historical downtown church. There is so much that our church has to offer, but we need to refurbish for the future. — *David Dozark*

The youth are fired up about the capital campaign! We are planning several upcoming events to raise money, including a carwash, selling radios at an Iowa football game for Habitat for Humanity and “taping the pastors to the wall.” Watch the bulletin boards for more exciting things from the youth of our church! — *Tricia Ross*

2009 *Stewardship Prayer*

God of abundant grace,
Renew our hearts and minds in your
Spirit that we may know your love.

As we rededicate our lives to attain
this mission, we are grateful for all
those who laid the foundation
of this church for future generations.

It is now our time to continue
to keep this church vital, accessible
and welcoming while providing funds
for future mission work.

We rejoice in our challenge and opportunity
to fulfill the continuing vision for
First United Methodist Church of Iowa City.

Please hear our prayers and bless our
contributions that we may fulfill the
discipleship of your Son and
our Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

We were drawn to FUMC over 20 years ago by its strong pulpit ministry, its education program for children and adults, its outstanding music program and for the sense of community we felt on Sunday after Sunday. Times change and how individuals and families interact with their church changes. This proposed rejuvenation of our church facility will allow FUMC to better meet people “where they are” and engage them in the energetic and productive Christian life of our community of faith. — *Mike Barron*