

Q&A

Trinity Baptist Church Capital Campaign 2017



THE PROJECT: Building Up and Sending Out

Q1. *I know the congregation voted 90% in favor of having a capital campaign in order to gather commitments toward a building expansion, but how did we get to that point?*

A. Great question. Four years of planning preceded the recommendation from the Building Committee and Church leadership. During that time, many options were considered. Discussions with our ministry groups, board, and staff were ongoing. We remained focused on mission and ministries, not on building plans. Only when we concluded that we would be enhancing the proclamation of His name, did we recommend expanding our present facility. Our goal is to facilitate ministry by joyfully pursuing the Living God by building up (and sending out).

Q2. *What is the total expansion cost?*

A. Approximately \$1,300,000 and this will include:

- a. Finalizing Architecture Designs
- b. Building Construction
- c. Site Prep & Temporary parking
- d. Furnishings and Equipment
- e. Parking Lot
- f. Kitchen upgrade

Q3. *Did the church leaders consider utilizing two morning services to accommodate our growing number prior to moving to a building expansion?*

A: YES

Our Philosophy – When a church divides itself into separate services, it succeeds in creating two communities that do not know or invest in one another. Consistent with the biblical imagery of a local church being “one body,” cutting the body in half very rarely adds to its health (even though it might be adding to its revenue or numerical growth). It is hard to have “equal concern for one another” (1 Cor. 12:25) if we don’t know or even see each other.

Two Christian Communities Under One Roof – When a church divides itself into separate services, it produces two communities. Often times these communities will identify themselves by personal interest, styles, and desires (ie. conservative vs. contemporary; old vs. young). Human nature does tell us that if given a choice, birds of a feather flock together. This defeats the purpose of God’s design for the church.

Volunteers – Two services would still draw from the same limited pool of volunteers which would fatigue and exhaust them.

Fails to meet need: - Doubling the capacity of our worship would not address the need for more teaching ministry space outside of the sanctuary (e.g. Awana, ABF, & Sunday School).

THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Q4. Why is our church involved in a capital campaign?

A. This capital campaign provides us with an opportunity to challenge one another to prayerfully consider our individual involvement in the campaign and our personal commitments to the Lord. While finances committed will enable us to build our new facility, our ultimate vision is to become more fully committed disciples in all areas of life.

Q5. Isn't the capital campaign simply a means to get money for the new building?

A. It is that and more. While we pray the Lord will use this emphasis to provide resources for the new facility, the capital campaign is a time of teaching that God owns everything - our time, talents, and treasures; we are simply stewards. When we understand that, the rest takes care of itself. Our goal is that through stewardship teaching each of us will surrender everything to Jesus Christ.

THE FINANCES

Q6. How much money are we trusting the Lord to supply in this campaign?

A. We have set a faith goal of \$1,000,000 of increased giving over the next three years.

Q7. How will the proposed expansion be funded?

A. There are four sources available to fund our expansion project. They are:

1. Cash currently in our Building Fund.
2. Immediate cash and non-cash gifts.
3. Regular weekly or monthly gifts given over three years.
4. Borrowed funds.

Q8. Just how much will we need to borrow?

A. Our goal is to have as little long-term debt as possible. A short-term construction loan will be opened to bridge the gap between money coming in and expenses being paid. The amount we borrow will depend upon what God provides through His people. There will be a realistic plan to pay back our obligations quickly and this plan will be presented to the congregation for final approval.

THE COMMITMENTS

Q9. *Is there a certain amount of money that I will be expected to commit to our Capital Campaign?*

A. No. After asking God for guidance in the decision, each person will decide his/her individual commitment. The goal is equal sacrifice, not equal gifts.

Q10. *What is expected of my family in making a financial commitment?*

A. Every family is being asked to pray about its commitment. No one will be pressured. No commitments will be published. We want everyone to pray about what they believe God would want to do through them. If God owns everything and we are simply stewards, then we believe that God will provide everything we need to effectively do His work as we are obedient to Him.

Q11. *Can we make one commitment for our entire family?*

A. Yes, you may. We strongly urge that you involve your children in some way, either by individual commitment or by their participation in the family giving.

Q12. *I already tithe to the General Budget and feel like that is all I can do. Is that ok?*

A. Only you and the Lord can decide how much you can give. This program has been designed so that everyone can give something, no matter what the size. Our goal is equal sacrifice, not equal gifts. If each one does as God directs, then victory is assured.

Q13. *Can I divide my current giving between the General Budget and the Capital Campaign?*

A. We strongly encourage you to make your commitment "over and above" any other giving to our church. The ministries and missions that we currently support still need to be funded. We ask that you not transfer current giving to the Capital Campaign.

Q14. *Will God help me make a commitment which right now seems beyond my means?*

A. Making a commitment that you know for certain is unrealistic might be detrimental to you and to the church. However, sometimes things that seem beyond our reach are closer than they appear! Priorities may need to be rearranged in order to participate at a sacrificial level. If you need further assistance, we encourage you to seek out our creative giving team headed by Rich Dorsey.

Q15. *Do I have flexibility in making my financial commitment?*

A. Yes, there are three general categories under which you can make your commitment:

1. Immediate gifts from accumulated cash.
2. Regular weekly or monthly gifts of a specified amount over the next three years.
3. Non-cash assets such as property, stocks, bonds, etc.

Q16. *May I give assets other than cash?*

A. Yes. There may be tremendous tax advantages to giving assets other than cash. Rich Dorsey and the creative gifts team will be happy to discuss this with you, or you may choose to consult with your personal tax advisor.

Q17. *Can I designate my gift to a specific area or portion of the project?*

A. Until the campaign is completed, we will not know what revisions (if any) need to be made, how much we may need to borrow or what extras can be added. For those reasons, we ask that you not limit your gift by designating it to a specific area or purpose.

THE COMMITMENT PROCESS

Q18. *When and where will the commitments be made?*

A. Most commitments will be made on Commitment Sunday, November 19, during our church services. However, leaders will submit theirs on or before November 5 by . . .

- placing it in the specially marked box near the Communication Center,
- giving it directly to John Kunnen and Vic Laing (Campaign Co-chairs), or
- mailing the sealed envelope to the church.

Q19. *How will commitments be received?*

A. On November 19, Commitment Sunday, our church family will turn in their sealed financial commitments during the morning worship service.

Q20. *Why do I need to make my commitment in writing?*

A. The total amount of commitments will be used to forecast future income and to establish a realistic construction budget and timetable.

Q21. *How will the commitments be reported?*

A. Your sealed Commitment Card will be received and opened by Jim Ramaker, Financial Secretary and Brad Kamstra, Assistant Financial Secretary. A total dollar amount will be reported to the congregation.

Q22. *Will I be asked to publically state my commitment?*

A. Absolutely not! Your commitment is a private matter between you and God. We will not make these commitments a matter of public knowledge in any way, shape, or form.

Q23. Why is my name requested on the Commitment Card?

A. We assume that if you make a commitment in good faith, relying upon God to help you meet it, you will complete it without any further contact from church leaders. However, there are some very practical reasons for having names on commitments:

1. **Confusion.** Sometimes there may be confusion when interpreting a Commitment Card. Having a name allows the person tabulating the commitments clarify the issue before reporting totals to the congregation.
2. **Loan Requirements.** If your project funding plan requires bank financing, it's not unusual for the lender to ask whether the church has signed pledges in hand (unsigned pledges would be less positive for the lender).
3. **People Forget.** Over the course of a three-year timeframe, it is not unusual for a few people to lose or misplace the personal copy of their commitment. Without names, it is impossible to provide a reminder to anyone, even at their own request.
4. **Pledge Validation.** The church needs to know that the pledge is valid. Strange as it might seem, there have been known instances where a well-meaning teenager mistakenly completed a large pledge with dire consequences to the church campaign. Without names, you have no way of knowing whether the pledge has validity.

Q24. If I should fall behind, will the church take steps to make me pay?

A. We will most certainly not take any action to collect on a voluntary financial commitment. Our purpose in this campaign is to provide adequate facilities so that we can continue to make forward progress in accomplishing the mission of our church. We are simply asking that you pray and seek God's guidance as to what He would have you commit to Him. We have provided Commitment Cards for us to plan wisely.

Q25. When am I supposed to start giving toward my commitment?

A. We anticipate giving toward commitments to begin on Celebration Sunday, December 3. Of course, we recognize that not everyone receives a weekly paycheck. Therefore, you may begin honoring your commitment based upon the timing that you designate on your Commitment Card and according to your income schedule.

Q26. Can I give online toward the fulfillment of my pledge?

A. *Trinity's online giving is set up to receive offerings toward the building fund and you are certainly allowed to give that way; however, all giving done online is subject to a 2-3% service fee. Therefore, in order to maximize giving, you are encouraged to consider giving via cash or check using your tithing envelopes.*

Q27. Will I have opportunity to revise my commitment?

A. Certainly, since this is a commitment between you and the Lord, you have opportunity to revise your commitment. It would be helpful if changes could be communicated to Jim Ramaker or Brad Kamstra, in a written manner so church treasurer can revise their projections.

