



## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR STANDING IN THE PROMISE**

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### **Q. Will the goal of \$650,000 pay off our debt?**

No. The current amount of the debt owed is \$916,500. This campaign will not completely pay off the debt, but the Finance Committee is hopeful that the remaining debt can be incorporated into the church's operating budget at the end of the campaign in 2020.

### **Q. Where did the name for this campaign come from?**

When we stand in the Life Center, we are "Standing in the Promise" As a church body we can look back and say "To God be the Glory". Let us therefore be faithful in what He has blessed us with as we are standing in the Promise.

### **Q. Why do we still owe money after our previous campaigns?**

The church has incurred some significant debt to build the Life Center, including purchasing 1.75 acres of land adjacent to the church in 2007 for \$450,000, and then building the Life Center in 2008 - 2009 at a cost of \$2.5 million. The bank loan was \$2,950,000. The Land has been paid off and after our previous campaigns the debt has been brought down to its present debt of \$916,500. Standing in the Promise, should be the last campaign required to service the debt for our existing church facilities.

### **Q. What is the reason for the Capital Campaign?**

This campaign will allow us to continue to be fiscally responsible as we move forward as a church. The pledges received will give us the ability to plan and budget in a way that make our debt manageable.

### **Q. Why are we asked to make 2 pledges?**

The church has two budgets. One called the Stewardship Campaign which is to support the operating budget of the church. This budget covers the expenses related to running the church, including pastor and staff salaries & benefits, church maintenance, utility expenses, office expenses, programs and ministries for adults, youth & children, donations to charities & missions, conference apportionments, etc. The other is a Capital Campaign to pay down the long term debt that we incurred by purchasing land and building the Life Center. We are calling this campaign Standing in the Promise.



**Q. If I can only make one pledge, which should it be?**

Both campaigns are equally important to ensure the financial health of the church. We ask that every church member will prayerfully consider making a pledge to each of these campaigns. Standing in the Promise campaign will be a 3-year campaign and the church will not ask you to make another capital campaign pledge over the next 3-4 years. If you can only make one pledge, do that to the Annual Stewardship campaign. This campaign support's the church's annual operating budget. *Remember, your pledge can be changed if necessary.*

**Q. Can you give something other than cash as a pledge?**

Yes. The most common way to make capital campaign pledge payments are made via cash or checks, but transferring stock is also acceptable. Other donations are acceptable with approval of the Finance or Trustee committee.

**Q. Are we getting our money's worth out of the Life Center?**

We are getting more than our money's worth out of the Life Center. There is at least one event going on there every day of the week except Saturday. People meet Jesus there and go out into the world to serve Him through our largest attended worship service, our adult Sunday and weekly Bible Studies, our youth ministry and our new children's 11 o'clock Bible class. Wellness classes and events, prayer meetings, fellowship, Prayer Quilt ministry and mission groups use the classrooms. The Center is used for many church and community events such as dinners, festivals, meetings, and lunches and showers for those in need. It provides needed office space for staff as well as storage for records, worship and mission supplies and much more. We are definitely getting and giving from this Center.

**Q. Why do we want to pay off the debt?**

We would have to pay \$30,000 in interest, not reducing the debt at all. Debt can be a hindrance to the church's vision if there is no plan for maintaining and paying it off. Paying down and paying off the debt moves us from being burdened by debt to managing that same debt.



**Q. Why are we paying a professional consultant?**

Statistics show that using a professional consultant increases the number and amount of pledges. Our consultant is a professional in the field of fund raising churches. Our consultant is the same one we used in the previous highly successful campaign.

**Q. What is sacrificial giving?**

Sacrificial giving is what results when we make a deliberate choice to dedicate our time, resources or life to something or someone beyond ourselves even if it means giving up something.

**Q. Am I responsible for the total gift if unforeseen circumstance arise and it becomes a financial hardship?**

There are two distinct aspects of pledging. The first is a financial pledge to help support the church's Stewardship campaign (operating budget) and the Capital campaign (long-term debt). However, the more important aspect is a religious pledge to develop a deeper relationship with God and your church, Little River United Methodist Church. God will understand! Contact our Business Manager and change your records.

**Q. What is the campaign schedule?**

- April 2 ~ Kickoff Dinner 5:00 PM
- April 9 ~ Campaign Sunday
- April 16 ~ Easter
- April 22/23 ~ Missions
- April 30 ~ Commitment Sunday
- May 7 ~ Celebration Dinner ~ 5:00 PM
- May 14 ~ First Fruits

**Q. How should I determine my pledge?**

Participate in the activities of the church to acquaint yourself with the goals of the campaign, discuss your pledge with your family, and pray *fervently* to God for guidance in this important decision.



**Q. What ministries will be enhanced with more funds available?**

As our debt is relieved we will have the ability to build on established ministries at home, around the corner and around the world. Unburden by debt will enable us to ask, “What is God calling us to do?”