

2012 Going the Distance program Frequently Asked Questions

1. Question – Why are we having the 2012 GOING THE DISTANCE capital campaign?

Answer – We will use the contributions to this campaign to continue to make the mortgage payments on our property. St. Andrew has one of the best used church buildings in our state with 188 different meetings of congregational groups and community groups each week! We constructed our space as an instrument for life changing ministries and we are proud of the way we continue to serve persons in the spirit of Christ.

The first year's mortgage payments have been covered by \$600,000 of gifts from three families and \$200,000 of contributions that were made to the Live Our Vision campaign. Those monies cover the mortgage payments until May 2012. Our current mortgage payments are approximately \$800,000 a year, or \$67,000 per month, for the remainder of our 15 year mortgage. Beginning in May we'll need the contributions to our Going the Distance campaign to fund the mortgage payments.

We do not have money allocated in our current Operating Budget to pay for debt retirement so it is very important to raise debt retirement money through our Capital Campaigns.

2. Question – What is the campaign goal?

Answer – Our goal is to raise \$3.6 million in pledges, including the \$600,000 already given. This will cover the three year period from May 1, 2012 until April 30, 2015. \$3.6 million will let us meet our mortgage obligations and build up a capital reserve in case of emergencies.

3. Question – How realistic is it to have another capital pledge program as our country is starting to come out of a recession?

Answer – We know our congregation believes in our mission and our purpose. We also know there are a great variety of current financial circumstances among our St. Andrew members and friends. Many of us will be able to contribute to this campaign at this time while some will not. We understand that. This inspirational response was clearly demonstrated in December of 2011 when we ended our program year with more gifts to our December operating budget than we have ever experienced in our fifty one year history as a congregation!

4. Question – I thought the building was paid for when we moved into the new sanctuary in 2010.

Answer – We have expended \$28 million to date on the facilities to house the flagship ministries of our congregation. We have used the proceeds from previous capital campaigns and debt to facilitate that construction. Our outstanding mortgage is currently only \$8 million. When we finished our construction in November 2010, we had created an extremely usable, and welcoming, building at the most advantageous time in recent construction history.

5. Question – What has our “track record” been in gathering the funds to provide space for ministry?

Answer – Over the past 17 years, members and friends of St. Andrew church understand that God has blessed us so we can be a blessing and they have given generously and sacrificially for the transformation of lives.

Beginning with our first 3 year capital program in 1999, to fund our space and ministry expansion, we have been able to raise approximately \$3 million in each of our programs:

- 1999 – 2002; 2002 – 2005; and 2005 – 2008

The most recent capital program to build the most recent addition to our current ministry space, raised \$6.4 million. Even in the beginning of our current recession!

6. Question – How well used is our building?

Answer – **St. Andrew UMC** is a leader in the Rocky Mountain Conference. We are known for our excellent worship experiences and reaching out to the greater Denver area community. And, in the next few years we expect our congregation to grow as we develop ministry for young adults and families. Our ministry space is used for the following:

1. Pathways, adult education supports 175 classes and special events plus 10 Disciple Bible Study classes
2. Outreach Ministry supports 12 agencies and 3 ministries including the newest Prison Ministry
3. Music and the Arts Ministry provides approximately 120 musical events per year in addition to weekly worship experiences
4. Congregational Care Ministry covers 6 areas and 40 plus ministry offerings such as Divorce Recovery, Depression Support, 6 - 12 step groups, Men's Ministries, Health Ministry, and Care Team in addition to many others
5. Children's Learning Center serves 218 children

On Sundays our building is abuzz with worship and classes and fellowship opportunities from 8 AM until 9 PM!

7. Question – What if we raise more than our initial \$3.6 million, three year goal?

Answer – The extra amount, depending on the amount, will go to create an emergency reserve fund for debt retirement or to pay down our debt ahead of schedule.

8. Question – My family is in financial distress right now. How can I help in the campaign?

Answer – We recognize that many of our members are unemployed or underemployed right now. Others have experienced reduced incomes. Our hope is that everyone will pray for the campaign. We also want to encourage everyone to participate in some way, regardless of how small. But we fully understand that there are some, because of their financial situation, whose participation may be limited. This is okay. We believe there are enough people in the church who can contribute to making the campaign successful.

9. Question – How much, on average, are we expecting each family to commit?

Answer – We don't calculate our campaign goals in that way because there is such a wide diversity of income levels in our congregation. Our aim is not equal commitments but equal levels of relative giving. The individual who makes \$20,000 per year will give less than the one who makes \$200,000 per year. We ask that each person prayerfully consider a special gift that requires some measure of sacrifice commensurate with their means and abilities, and when we all do what we are able, as God leads, we meet with success.

10. Question – Can I give stock or property?

Answer – Yes, we've had people give art, property, stocks and other assets over the years. The key is that the asset should be able to be sold. Speak to your tax advisor on the best way to fulfill your commitment.

11. Question – When will this capital campaign period begin and end?

Answer – Our congregation will be asked to return their commitment cards by April 29, 2012. Contributions will begin May 1, 2012 and the pledge period will end April 30, 2015 so that we may give over a 36 month period covering four tax years.

12. Question – How do I decide what to give in the *Going the Distance* capital campaign?

Answer – We can all practice the biblical tradition that assures us that GOD BLESSES US SO WE CAN BE A BLESSING. In your prayer time, ask God to help you decide what pledge is right for your circumstances. Perhaps your *Going the Distance* pledge will come from sources other than those used for the programs and ministries of our church, such as stocks or other accumulated assets where there might be tax benefit to the gift. The key is to consider how you want to contribute to helping us pay down our debt during this campaign.