

## **FAQ STORY FOR THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DETAIL BROCHURE**

### **What is the anticipated project cost?**

In December 2014, the estimated cost of the entire project was \$4.7 million. This included all phases — a new building and all renovations to the existing buildings. The cost for the building in phases was \$3.6 million for the new building and \$1.1 million for the renovations. Upon receiving the results of the feasibility study, it was determined that we should only move ahead with the new building project, leaving renovations for later. It should be noted that this does not include acquisition and site preparation for additional parking. It is clear to us, however, that we will need a second three-year campaign to complete paying for this project.

### **How will we pay for this?**

Just as those saints who preceded us at Bethlehem partnered with God to advance His Kingdom, that's what we need to do today. It is our turn! The cost of such an undertaking must have been staggering to them, and individually no one had the resources necessary to bring the vision to fruition. But these saints never gave up hope in their vision. We need to claim God as our guide and partner as well. God is the one who will cause us to examine our hearts to think about this question: "What does God want to do through me ... through us? Through God, the way will be made clear, and an answer will be given. We are coming to a time when we will have the opportunity to demonstrate how every individual and family can be a part of the vision we feel God has given to us. By seeking God in faith and prayer, it is God who will then guide each of us to discover what part of our resources we can sacrificially set aside as we partner with Him.

### **What happens at the conclusion of the campaign?**

We will know the financial commitment for the next three years. We will then determine how to proceed in support of the building and ministry expansion. Be reminded: According to Dr. Scott McKenzie, our campaign executive, we will likely need a second three-year campaign. This is commonly done in larger projects such as ours.

### **How much should I give?**

**First, we ask that no one reduce their current giving in order to give to the capital campaign. We all know that current operating expenses will increase, and our ministry responsibilities must also increase during this time.** Each situation is different, but again, the key question should always be: "What does God want to do through me?" We suggest you turn to God for guidance, earnestly asking that question. Please use the daily Devotional Guide for reflection and consider your prayerful gift. That guide will be available online on our website: [www.gotobethlehem.org](http://www.gotobethlehem.org). Hard copies are also available at the network tables. Those who are on our email network will also receive a daily reminder. You may also become a Facebook friend of Bethlehem Church to see postings of the daily devotions.

### **Can I give in ways other than cash?**

There are many ways to give, some of which have great tax advantages. A special brochure is being prepared that will suggest options and alternatives for noncash donations. You will see it soon as part of the commitment card literature.

### **When are the commitment cards and payment due?**

We ask for your commitment cards by Sunday, June 7. The capital campaign runs through June 2018. Options include weekly, monthly, annual or a one-time gift. This is a personal decision, and each household makes a selection that best suits its financial situation.

### **Has consideration been given to the operating costs of the new space?**

As our ministry expands, the financial support required to run the church will increase. As we continue to give in gratitude for what God has given us, we believe that we will be able to meet the needs of this expanded ministry.

### **Why expand now?**

Every week we enjoy a sanctuary that was the result of the vision of our ancestors in the early 1900s. They had a vision of how God's Kingdom could be advanced in Dallastown. In the 1960s, other ancestors had the vision that the education piece of God's Kingdom needed to be expanded, and the result was the Education Building. These saints faced their visions with a great deal of trepidation, but they never gave up hope. Now it is our turn to carry forth a vision of how we can bring our entire congregation together and at the same time open our doors to the community. In so doing, we will extend our mission for the next 50 years of giving of ourselves so others may know Jesus Christ.

### **When will we break ground?**

We hope to be in position to break ground by late September/early October.

### **How long will it take to build?**

The project will take the better part of a year. The precise duration depends on variables such as weather. During this time, our contractor understands that our church must continue its services and activities with a minimum of interference and inconvenience.

### **Do we have the appropriate approvals to proceed?**

The Steering Committee, with the assistance of our architect and civil engineer, has applied for and secured the required municipal zoning, land development and stormwater management approvals. We still need the borough's final approval in the form of a building permit. While we do not take anything for granted, we have no reason to believe that we would encounter significant obstacles with this final step.

### **What is the overall size for the renovation and construction?**

The new building measures about 80 feet by 140 feet. Its footprint would be about 11,200 square feet. The total new floor area would be about 25,000 square feet.

### **How did we decide what to do?**

Our congregation at Bethlehem is dynamic and growing. This is a blessing, but it also presents a challenge. Trinity Life Center is not large enough to accommodate our growing Contemporary congregation. If we are to continue growing, we need more space. Another challenge to be addressed is that we are one congregation that worships in two locations. The Steering Committee visited other churches in the region that had faced and addressed similar challenges. This includes Camp Hill United Methodist Church, which took on a large building project during the tenure of Pastor Ron Bowersox. These churches built new facilities in ways that brought the pieces of their congregation together into a unified whole. They also designed their new facilities to serve multiple purposes, and in the process they serve not just the congregation but the community. And by reaching out into and serving the community, they have brought more people to God. That is what we wish to do here.

### **How much work went into getting us to this point?**

The Steering Committee was formed in autumn 2013. Since then, the committee met dozens and dozens of times with community leaders, government officials and boards, private citizens, architects, contractors, subcontractors and other groups, learning, analyzing, reviewing, discussing, deciding and resolving a bewildering array of issues large and small. From the beginning, our hope and prayer has been that God would guide us and our efforts, that through us His will may be done.

### **What will happen to Trinity Life Center and the Trinity parsonage?**

That decision has not been made. Both properties could be sold and the proceeds utilized to help pay for the addition and the repurposing of the current facilities. Perhaps the two properties could provide the final piece of the parking puzzle. Or maybe some form of community outreach, such as a counseling center, could be placed there. We are still waiting to see how this part of the vision of Bethlehem will unfold.

### **How will this expansion benefit Dallastown?**

If you see the rendering of what the architect has presented, you will instantly be able to see how such a structure will be a visual asset to the community. But the excitement of what the building might look like inside and out doesn't come close to the excitement of how God is going to take his vision and use it to advance his Kingdom in Dallastown. You can almost hear the squeaking of the sneakers on the multipurpose room floor as a 10-year-old boy heads for the basket for a layup or a 12-year-old girl gets in position to set the volleyball as a teammate positions herself for a spike. You can imagine the conversations and relationships that will come to life over a latte or cappuccino in the café. Could it be a day at Christmas in Dallastown that makes use of the expanded space that will energize you? Maybe all the groups that will be able to meet in improved facilities that could change the lives of those in attendance is what excites you. And what about all the programs that will take place on the new stage? Can you imagine all of the activities, fellowship, worship, meals, mission outreach, sharing, learning, singing and praising that will take place at Bethlehem for years to come? Seeing how God will take our vision and use it to His glory in Dallastown and beyond is the real excitement.