



Trinity Capital Campaign

Frequently Asked Questions

Why should we contribute to this campaign?

Because we love our church and we wish it to thrive. As stewards of Trinity UMC, we want to not only preserve our beautiful historic building, but to ensure that it addresses our ministry needs today so that it is a safe and attractive space to welcome all.

If we didn't have this capital campaign, how would these building repairs and renovations be paid for?

The most urgent project is the enclosure of the stairwells to meet the new state fire code. We have until April 2019 to comply with the code or the nursery school license will be in jeopardy. The Trustees have adequate funds at this time to complete the stairwell project but there would be nothing left over for any emergencies.

What needs to be done to comply with the new fire codes?

The front and rear stairwells need to be enclosed to contain smoke on each floor. The enclosure will help people to exit the building safely. With the stairwell partitioning to meet fire code we are also looking to provide security for the building. There will be additional doors with electronic access installed on the first floor to cordon off the office spaces and the sanctuary.

When was the last time the roof was redone?

The slate roof is original to the building. Repairs have been made reactively in various areas of the church. For example, the lower four garden area roofs were redone in 2016. However, there are still repairs to be made to the roof over the sanctuary.

Are there funds available from the Trustees to use for these projects?

As of 12-31-17 the Trustees have \$146,708.10 available for repairs and upgrades. As mentioned above, using these funds to meet the urgently needed fire code requirements would deplete the reserves currently held by the Trustees.

Don't we have Foundation money that we can use for this project?

The Trustees administer the Foundation Funds. These funds are considered endowment funds, so the principal amount invested remains intact with the stipulation that only the investment income is available for the Trustees to use. This is in accordance with the wishes of those who donated these restricted funds. As of 12-31-17, there is \$146,708.10 available to the Trustees.

What happens if we don't meet our fundraising goal?

The various components of the proposed project scope would have to be re-evaluated, prioritized and matched to the available funding with the remainder deferred until a later time when the cost to make repairs will likely be greater.

How long is my pledge commitment?

We are asking people to consider making a pledge to be paid over three years. However, all gifts are welcome and needed. Of course, pledges may be paid before the end of three years if the donor prefers.

How much should I give?

We recognize that the question of what to give is a very personal one and will be different for every household. Some will be able to make major gifts to the campaign. Others will be able to make a commitment equal to or greater than their annual giving, to be paid over three years. All gifts of any amount are welcome and needed to help us meet our need.

We also recognize that not everyone will be able to make a pledge. We understand that, and we appreciate their prayers and support for Trinity. If circumstances change and people find that they are able to make a gift to the campaign at a later time, we will gladly accept it. Again, all gifts are welcome.

We don't pledge annually, but we are regular contributors. We plan on contributing to the campaign as well. Do we need to fill out a pledge card?

Yes, if you are going to contribute to the campaign it will be very helpful to have a pledge card from you so that we will know how best to plan the scope of work for this campaign.

Will my pledge to the campaign count as my annual giving?

No, any contribution made to the capital campaign should be in addition to your annual stewardship. Please don't reduce your annual giving in order to give to the campaign. Stewardship giving is largely dedicated to funding the annual operating expenses of the church – i.e., mission, ministry, programming, staff salaries and benefits, normal building maintenance, utilities, insurance. For the church to continue to meet its day-to-day commitments we must maintain our strong stewardship and view any capital campaign pledge as an incremental investment in Trinity's future.

How will I receive reminders about my pledge?

Your statements from the church will reflect how much you have contributed toward your pledge to the campaign.

What happens if my financial situation changes and I cannot fulfill my commitment?

As with your yearly pledge, the church understands that circumstances change. If you are unable to meet your pledge, we simply ask that you communicate that to the pastor or the financial secretary in the church office so that we can plan accordingly.

Can donations be made directly from IRA's or 401K's without taxes being deducted if you are over 70.5 years of age?

Yes, up to \$100,000 per year may be donated directly from an IRA to a public charity such as Trinity UMC. This amount is not included in taxable income when written directly to Trinity and will count toward the donor's annual required minimum distribution (RMD). 401Ks will need to be rolled over into an IRA without tax before charitable donations can be made. *(Always consult a tax professional when planning your donation.)*

Are there any other giving strategies that would minimize taxes for those who are under 70.5 years of age?

A gift of your securities, including your stocks or bonds, is an easy way for you to make a gift. By making a gift of your appreciated securities, you can avoid paying capital gains tax that would otherwise be due if you sold these assets.

Because of the new higher standard deduction in the newest tax law changes, some may find it advantageous to pay their entire pledge commitment in a single year rather than spread out over three.

There are other strategies regarding donations of property, etc. that you can go over with your tax professional. *(Always consult a tax professional when planning your donation.)*