

Frequently Asked Questions

Have questions about Bensalem UMC's *Paving the Way For the Future* capital campaign? Below are some of the most frequently asked questions about the campaign.

Why are we doing a capital campaign?

All buildings, especially historical structures, require regular maintenance and periodic renovation to preserve their value, operate safely and efficiently, and prevent system failures that can interrupt utilization. Church facilities are no different. If we are to be good stewards of the property and buildings with which God has blessed us, we need to make capital improvements that ensure we can continue to minister to the congregation and the surrounding community. This campaign is intended to equip our facilities for many years of continued use and strengthen our ability to fulfill our mission, "To make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation for the world."

Which project(s) are priority?

Church leadership spent the past year working to identify, prioritize and establish costs for the most immediate maintenance needs of the church. This was fine-tuned via congregation feedback during the feasibility study. Based on the feasibility study input, our top priority project for the capital campaign is paving the parking lots. The second and third priority items respectively are: replacement of the two air conditioning units for the Kurtiz Room and the church office and Pastor's office; and the repair of the roof over the back entrance/stair well and classroom areas which connect with the Wesley Hall roof. Additional work, such as adding air conditioning to Fellowship Hall and replacing the carpet in Fellowship Hall, will be undertaken if the congregation's response to the capital campaign allows.

When will any work begin?

Work will begin based on the generosity of our church family. The completed commitment forms will help church leadership understand the total dollar-value of committed campaign contributions and when those donations will be received. Once this information is known, leadership can create a plan for moving forward, which will be shared with the congregation. While we would love to pave the parking lots sooner than later because of safety concerns and the vendor, who has provided the best pricing for the paving work, has very generously guaranteed his price for this year, we cannot schedule this work until the funds are available to cover the expenditure.

Is this instead of our annual stewardship campaign?

No, the campaign is not instead of your regular giving. Rather, the capital campaign is "above and beyond." Annual giving supports operational costs, such as conference apportionments, insurance, utilities, staff salaries, existing ministries, office supplies, mailing, and general maintenance. Campaign contributions will directly support the projects outlined in the campaign literature.

How do we make our capital campaign gifts?

Your prayers are so needed through this journey! As with all things, begin in prayer. Then, decide the pledge/gift amount that aligns with how you are being led by the Holy Spirit. Once you have come to a decision, fill out a commitment form and return it to the church. We are asking for all forms to be returned before or by Commitment Sunday (March 9, 2025) to help us understand how funds will come in. You may give the amount that you pledge in various ways over three years (or a shorter period) and at a time of your choosing.

How much am I expected to give?

It would be impossible to raise enough money to pay for these capital improvements through offering plate donations or "gifts of convenience." We must rely on everyone to plan for sacrificial generosity, and then do their best to accomplish it...one step at a time. You must be the one to determine how much you can give and budget it across multiple years, as best fits your financial situation. If you are fortunate to be able to give more in the first year, please do so! Such help is greatly appreciated and will allow us to accomplish projects more quickly and within budget.

How do I give my campaign pledge?

If you are contributing from your current income or bank savings, gifts may be made by cash, check, or online on the donations page on our website through Vanco. Most financial institutions have bill-paying services that allow donations to be sent directly from your bank. Just sign up for your bank's online bill-paying service, and you're halfway there. You may have your campaign gift sent each week, month, quarter, or once for the entire year! If you make your gift online, be sure to indicate that it is for the campaign to ensure your gift is recorded accurately.

Will other types of donations be accepted?

In addition to giving from current income or bank accounts, you may support the capital campaign in other ways. Some additional gifting considerations are stocks, bonds, mutual funds, Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) from IRAs or Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) (if over 73 years of age), appreciated real estate, a corporate matching gift program and more. If you are interested in giving in one of these ways, please contact the SAS Leadership Board Chair, Paul Lacerte, at 267-549-3668 to learn more. Don't forget to also share our needs with your friends and family who may be interested in participating!

When will my contributions begin?

Your contributions may begin as soon as you would like...we have received several gifts already! Some may choose to give an upfront gift the first year, some may decide to give weekly, monthly, or quarterly throughout the campaign, and some may only give in years two and three. Regardless of when you choose to start making your contributions, we ask that you return a commitment form to the church office to help us properly budget for expenses.

Where may I continue to find updated information?

You will find updates regarding the campaign in our bulletins, newsletters, social media, and announcements at our worship services. Campaign updates will also be on our church website.

Who are the members of the Campaign Committee?

Unis Bedell Whiegar
Dollie Campbell
Jim Cielinski
Pat Cielinski
Vincent Drybala
George Dworsky

Joyce Dworsky
Linda Evans
Paul Lacerte
Nancy Oczkowski
Betsy Pitcher
Cathy Roberts

Jim Stubenhofer
Wendy Stubenhofer
Dan Taylor
Nate Whiegar
Bill Wingert

Still have questions?

If you have any questions or want to talk about your contribution to the capital campaign, please contact our campaign manager, Richie Musser, at 484-364-0781 or rmusser@kirbysmith.com. You may also contact the SAS Leadership Board Chair, Paul Lacerte, at 267-549-3668.