

A Few Questions & Answers

I attend Church of the Servant, but I'm not a member. Can I still participate in the campaign?

Yes! We welcome the involvement of anyone who is interested in this campaign, including friends, family members, and those who haven't officially joined us yet. Perhaps you have a special interest in creation care and would like to help make this pioneering geothermal project happen. We would love that. Please consider whether you're being led to give.

Why are we having this campaign now, when we're having trouble meeting our annual budget?

There are good reasons for the campaign, and we believe God has led us to this decision. The two big drivers are (a) the short window of opportunity we have to repay our debt early without penalty and (b) our aging heating and cooling system. Taken as a whole, the campaign creates long-term financial savings for our church. Reducing our debt by \$1 million will save about \$84,000 every year in interest payments. And the geothermal system, while more costly up front, is more economical over the long term. So the campaign requests a short-term sacrifice in exchange for long-term budget savings and other benefits. Many of these benefits are spelled out in the campaign brochure.

What percentage of today's church budget is allocated to our mortgage payments?

In 2012, before we refinanced our mortgage loan, 12.8% of our budget went to the mortgage. In the 2013 budget, mortgage payments make up 9.1% of the total (\$135,000 of \$1,488,311). If we achieve \$1 million in debt reduction through this campaign, this percentage would be cut to about 3.5%.

What are the specifics of this campaign, as set up by the church council?

In May 2013 the council approved the \$1.8 million Generation to Generation campaign to raise funds for the installation of a geothermal heating and cooling system in the old portion of the building and for mortgage debt reduction. Council specified that the first \$1 million pledged should be allocated to debt reduction. This requirement was meant to ensure a reduction in our mortgage payments, thereby easing the strain on our annual budget in future years.

Does this mean that the first campaign funds *received* will be applied to the debt?

Not necessarily. Because our heating and cooling system in the original part of the building is failing, there is an urgent need to get that system replaced. Given a successful pledge drive, we will likely spend the first funds that arrive on the geothermal system. But this is a three-year campaign, so the funds that arrive in years two and three can then be applied to the mortgage.

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I hate to mention this possibility, but what happens if we don't reach the pledge goal?

The council and campaign committee are quite confident that we can reach the full \$1.8 million goal. In our two prior campaigns—for the original building (1994) and the building addition (2006)—we gave around \$1.5 million each time. So, if everyone in the congregation makes a sacrificial pledge over this three-year period, the goal certainly appears to be reachable. Keep in mind that we're asking for a three-year pledge, not just a single gift. This should enable us to give more generously. However, if pledges fall short, council will have to reopen a discussion of how to address the church's complex ongoing needs. Please pray for a generous response.

I have a greater personal interest in one part of the campaign than in the other. May I designate my gift to be used for that purpose?

You may, but we encourage you to think about this as a unified campaign to raise \$1.8 million. If that amount is pledged, all that is planned will be accomplished. If we exceed the goal, even more debt will be reduced.

How is the drilling of geothermal wells for this project different from fracking?

They are completely different things. Our geothermal project involves drilling a set of bores about 400 feet into the ground behind the church building to create an underground heat exchange system. We'll insert plastic piping into these bores, creating a closed-loop system. The pipes will be filled with liquid and surrounded with a grout that allows heat to pass through. Because the pipes are closed, the groundwater is fully protected. Our drilling of geothermal wells will reduce our need to burn natural gas and will set an example that others may follow. Hydraulic fracturing (or fracking), on the other hand, is a way of increasing the production of oil and natural gas in wells deep within the earth by injecting fluid into cracks in rock. The pressure forces the rock to break open and release oil and natural gas for extraction. So, the two processes have different goals, methods, and outcomes.

Can I contribute stock certificates or some other non-cash asset?

Absolutely. Stock and mutual funds receive special recognition from the IRS and can easily be converted to cash. And those who make annual IRA withdrawals can even receive tax advantages with the charitable IRA rollover that has been extended through the end of 2013. Please talk with your tax advisor for more information.

Can I update my campaign commitment after my initial pledge?

Certainly. To do so, please submit a new pledge form with a note explaining that it is an update.

So, when do I need to make a commitment?

We're asking that all pledge forms be returned to the church office (or to one of the offering bowls during morning worship) by **Sunday, November 3**. The first year's contribution should be made in 2013, the second in 2014, and the third in 2015. If you would like to extend your commitment beyond 2015, please talk to one of the campaign committee members; that can be easily arranged and could be very helpful.

Contacts

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