

From Generation to Generation
“*Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.*” *Psalm 90:1*
Case Statement for a Capital Campaign
First Presbyterian Church, Batavia, NY
March 17, 2011

From the beginning

Over the last 202 years God has inspired different generations to have a strong and vibrant ministry in the City of Batavia through First Presbyterian Church. A major part of this ministry has been the physical presence of the congregation through our church building on the corner of Main and Liberty. During our bicentennial celebration two years ago we gave thanks for the many weddings, baptisms, memorial services, mission projects, confirmation classes and a variety of other celebrations and events that have taken place in the church building. We continue to give thanks to God especially for the faithfulness of the generations before us who gave of themselves and of their resources to build and maintain the church.

For Our Time

The ministry of First Presbyterian Church continues today because of the faith, commitment and love of its members and friends. There is a strong sense of excitement and energy among us to continue to make a difference in the world and to share our experiences of faith with the next generations. This has been evident in the amazing positive response to the vision of a capital campaign to do some much needed building maintenance and updates. Even though our trustees have been very diligent to do repair work every year, some of the bigger projects continue to be in need of attention and funds. After prayerful discernment, discussion, and a congregational survey it has become clear to us that this is the time for us to conduct a capital campaign to respond to the renovation needs we have. It has been seventeen years since we have conducted a capital campaign for building improvements (with the exception of the bell tower repairs). Our congregation is growing on many levels which is evidenced by higher numbers in worship attendance and volunteer hours. There is a great deal of energy around this project. We have several people with engineering and architectural expertise who are willing to work on this project. In addition, the construction costs these days have been much lower than expected which gives us an advantage of getting more projects done at lower costs. We believe that just like previous generations, we are invited to step up in our giving in order to continue God’s vision and mission in our city.

What Needs to Be Done?

Most of us have seen different presentations of the renovation needs which were based on a professionally prepared building conditions’ report. As you can see below, through the two-year process of the Conditions Report Committee we have been able to identify two phases for the work needed. Phase 1 includes the items that need to be done as soon as possible. Phase 2 includes the projects that are less urgent, but equally important.

Phase 1 Projects:

1. Roofing: There are many parts of the church building and the 304 Main Street building that need roof repairs such as part of the sanctuary roof. Estimated cost: \$45,000.

2. Exterior Stone Work and Foundation Repairs: The stone structure of our building is in need of repointing work. There will also be some foundation work to shore up the sanctuary. Estimated cost: \$100,000
3. Handicap Accessibility: This is to provide at least one entrance to the church that allows handicap access to our building with a covered structure and a lift. Currently we have an outside ramp that gets slippery and icy in the winter. Estimated cost: \$80,000
4. Window Repairs and Replacements: There are many windows around the church that need to be repaired or replaced to make our building more heat efficient and secure. Estimated cost: \$40,000
5. Door Repairs and Replacements: These include interior and exterior doors that are at least 50 years old. Estimated cost: \$15,000
6. Painting: This includes repairing and painting the walls of the sanctuary, chapel, the fellowship hall and some hallways - Estimated cost: \$65,000
7. Kitchen Upgrades: The hood suppression system needs updating and a make-up air unit needs to be installed. Unsafe stoves need to be replaced. Estimated cost: \$15,000
8. Asbestos Abatement: This is mainly in our basement. Even though it is an area that is hardly used, the air ducts for the pipe organ and our heating system come from the basement. This work would eliminate the risk of asbestos flowing up to the sanctuary. The old boiler needs to be removed or encased. The asbestos needs to be removed from the walls and dirt floors of the basement. Estimated cost: \$100,000
9. Parking Lot Repairs: This is to repair a couple of sink holes and other deteriorated areas in the parking lot and to resurface much of the lot and driveway. Estimated cost: \$30,000
10. Miscellaneous Improvements: This includes installation of new gutters; repairs for the fellowship hall porch; lighting, electrical, and furnace replacements; and installation of a rail on chapel balcony. Estimated cost: \$90,000

Total Estimated Cost For Phase One: \$580,000

Phase 2 Projects:

This includes additional window and door repairs and replacements, more stone repointing, fellowship hall residing, plumbing and mechanical work and additional asbestos abatement.

Total Estimated Cost for Phase Two: \$490,000.

Into the Future

Our campaign will be a spiritual journey for each of us as individuals, and for the congregation as a whole. At the heart of this journey is prayer. Each of us will be asked to pray, on a daily basis this prayer, "Dear Lord, What would you do through me to accomplish your vision for our church?", and more particularly, "Help me discern a sacrifice for this great effort that will be meaningful to me, and which will bring joy to both You and to me." We rely on God's guidance for this journey because we know that this is a major undertaking for our congregation with a lot of potential for us to grow in our faith, commitment, generosity and love for Christ's church. Just like we have received the gifts of the work and giving of our ancestors in faith, we are invited to follow in their footsteps to give not only for our generation but also for the generations to come. First Presbyterian Church of Batavia has been a strong presence of love, faith and compassion in our community and the world for 202 years. May we have the vision and the faith to continue a faith-filled ministry from this generation to the ones to come!