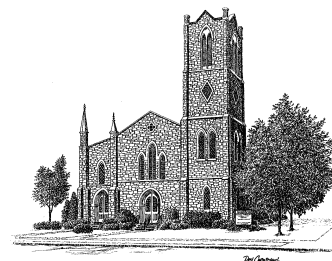


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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March 17, 2011

Dear friends in Christ,

We've been praying, dreaming and discussing some major renovations of our historic church building for several years. The time has come to act.

Please study the attached case statement for a capital campaign. It states what we hope to do, and more importantly, why we feel called to do it. I hope that the statement makes it clear that our building project is not an end in itself, it is a means to an end. Its deepest purpose is to respond to the vision that God has given us to strengthen our church's witness and mission.

Since the purpose of the project is deeply spiritual, it is only appropriate that we seek to raise the funds necessary to finance the project in a deeply spiritual way. For this reason, we're beginning a capital campaign that will be much more of a spiritual journey than a classic fundraiser. Indeed, the whole campaign can be summarized as inviting every member of the church to pray a simple prayer on a daily basis for a month: "Dear Lord, what would you do through me to accomplish your vision in our church?", and more particularly, "Help me discover a sacrifice that I might make for the campaign project, that will be meaningful to me, and hence meaningful to you."

Friends, no one is going to tell you what you *should* give to this campaign. Rather, we're inviting you to discover through prayer what you *may* give. We don't want anyone's decision to be influenced by guilt, pressure, or manipulation. We want it to be all about privilege, joy and gratitude.

To remain faithful to this intention, we are receiving campaign counsel from RSI, a company that has helped over 7000 churches take the journey that we are about to go on, and has helped them raise over \$8 billion in the process. On Sunday, March 20, our RSI stewardship consultant, Jeff Newlin, will be training our Campaign Leaders.

One of the key principals of our campaign is to involve as many members as possible in the campaign – from 50-60% of the congregation. So don't be surprised if you receive a phone call shortly after the leadership training asking you to serve in the campaign.

If you receive such a call, it's important for you to know that:

- a. You will be trained to do your task directly by our stewardship consultant.
- b. Your task will not require a lot of time. In fact, in most cases, both the training to do the task and the task itself will take no more than 2 hours.
- c. You will not be expected to ask anyone for money. You'll be inviting people to participate in a congregation-wide spiritual journey.

I believe that it will be very exciting time for all of us, and I hope that you do as well.

In Christ,
Pastor Roula Alkhouri