

Capital Campaign Messaging

Frequently Asked Questions

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Introduction:

How would you describe Memorial Church of Christ?

Memorial Church of Christ is a beacon of light in Houston, seeking to glorify God as a faith-filled influence in our community.

We are a thriving multi-generational group of people from all backgrounds who are overwhelmingly committed to giving back to the Lord through time, talent, and resources. There is a high-level of energy and involvement in ministries that help us Love like Jesus, Lead to Jesus, and Live for Jesus.

Why do we need to raise funds for a building project?

The great commission starts at 900 Echo Lane. Generations before us had the vision to cultivate the place that we have today. Our buildings serve as a strong home base used daily for bringing people together and serving others. It is important for us to recognize the momentum and impact we have in sharing the hope of Jesus with others, and the opportunity to invest in our facilities to multiply the vibrancy and vitality embodied in Memorial.

What will the funds be used for?

A Master Plan has been developed for Memorial Church of Christ envisioning full modernization of the entire campus to be architecturally cohesive with the education building and chapel which were completed in 2016.

Funds raised during the capital campaign are above and beyond our regular contributions and will be put towards fully realizing the Master Plan.

Why now?

Some of our current facilities date back to the 1960s (North Campus Buildings – Auditorium, Offices, Friendship School) and 1980s (Family Center). While we have been good stewards of the resources we have, these facilities are dated and require significant updates. Investment is required either through realizing the Master Plan or making costly repairs that will only temporarily solve failures and constraints.

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We have incredible momentum in our ministries and vibrance in the use of our newest facilities that we would like to capitalize on and grow. A short-term fix feels like a wasted opportunity and restricts the impact we could be having as we seek to be a welcome place for Christians to recharge and our community to experience hope in Jesus.

How much needs to be raised?

The projections to deliver the full Master Plan are \$44M; however, there are various funding levels that allow us to make improvements working towards the full plan.

While we recognize this is a significant investment, we believe we serve a God of incredible provision and are surrounded by a people of amazing generosity committed to continuing serving the Lord in Houston.

Why invest in this building project vs spending on other missions of the church?

A building can be used as a tool to heal a broken world. Many of the missions, ministries, and activities of our congregation are dependent on our campus at 900 Echo Lane. To continue these important functions, we need to ensure we have facilities that will be energy-efficient, welcoming, and large enough to support our thriving growth. Today, we are spending far too much of our budget maintaining aging infrastructure and outdated equipment. This is funding that could be much better dedicated to missions going forward. But we must make this investment in our facilities now to enable this future vision.

It's incredibly exciting to see how God is working in and through and blessing our church family. Imagine what God could do through Memorial with updated facilities and the financial freedom to focus on ministry and serving our community and building the kingdom throughout the world.

Why should I give?

There couldn't be a more personal question than why one should give to the church and, in particular, this campaign.

Broadly, it starts with our desire to Love, Lead, and Live for Jesus and our connection to the community at Memorial. We all have a passion to see Memorial thrive now and for the future.

In addition, there are many other factors that may inspire someone to give that are both general (Christ Like, Important Work) and specific (Legacy, Children, Enabler to Specific Ministry).

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Master Plan:

What does the Master Plan include?

Family Center Modernization

- Family Center modernization includes updates to kitchen, gym, restrooms, finishes/furnishings, and outdoor space with a focus on multi-purpose functionality and a youth friendly environment.
- Design leverages recent investment in roof repairs and classroom partitions to create flexible meeting space for all ages.

Worship Center Rebuild

- Rebuild includes shifting direction (West facing) and design (fan shaped) of worship center, modernizes appearance to include natural light and updated sound/technology.
- While Worship Center capacity remains similar, design provides a more communal experience with improved acoustics for acapella singing.
- Plan for Worship Center building includes a welcome center, classrooms, restrooms, flexible meeting spaces, and storage.

Remaining North Campus Rebuild

- Includes Ministry Staff Offices, Friendship School, Adult Education Classrooms, Large Flex Space (similar to Oak View room), and Storage in a multipurpose building.
- Reconfiguration of front lawn space retains oak trees (Hedwig Village, MCOC Brand) and modifies area to be welcoming and functional (playground, courtyard, park-like setting).

What if we raise less or more than the campaign goal?

Construction project outcomes will ultimately be driven by the funds that are raised. If the total raised is somewhere between these Good/Better/Best thresholds, or above the overall \$44M goal, the Campaign Committee, in close connection with the Facilities Committee, will make recommendations to the elders and seek their prayerful consideration and decisions for the best stewardship of this funding.

Good (\$10M)	Better (\$25M)	Best (\$44M)
Deliver Part of the Master Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family Center Modernization - Light renovations to Worship Center, Offices, and Friendship School 	Deliver More of Master Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family Center Modernization - Worship Center Rebuild - Light renovations to remaining areas. 	Fully Realize Master Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family Center Modernization - Worship Center Rebuild - Rebuild North Campus

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Financial Considerations:

How much do we need to raise versus how much are we willing to finance?

The goal is to raise enough to avoid any financing other than temporary funding during construction. The Finance Committee will work closely with the Campaign Committee to determine whether financing is warranted or prudent at any point in executing the Master Plan. The overriding goal will be to avoid burdening the congregation with debt that will not be easily retired.

What is the church's current financial position?

The church is in a solid financial position. Giving in recent years has been strong, and we have easily been able to meet our financial obligations.

How will the church's yearly/weekly budget be impacted?

Our facility operating costs should decrease substantially as our aged equipment will be replaced with efficient, modern equipment. Should there be any residual debt, the payments will be incorporated into the annual budget.

It is expected that funds raised during the capital campaign are above and beyond regular contributions and will be put towards fully realizing the Master Plan.

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Campaign Timeline and Details:

The official launch of the campaign will be February 2, 2025, when there will be focused engagement to prepare all of us for Commitment Sunday.

Looking forward, the campaign will have two important near-term milestones – **Commitment Sunday** on March 2, 2025 and a **Community Celebration** in the spring.

What is Commitment Sunday?

Commitment Sunday is the day the members of the congregation collectively make their financial commitment to the goals of the capital campaign.

It is important to recognize that these commitments will require sacrificial giving, as they are above and beyond our regular contributions which fund our annual budget. As we plan for Memorial's future, we believe it is important to maintain financial support for existing missions and ministries so they will continue to thrive as we strive to Love, Lead, and Live for Jesus.

What does it mean to make a commitment?

A commitment is like a promise to give a specific amount over the campaign period, which is usually three years. Commitments help the campaign leaders and building project leaders know how much of the Master Plan they will be able to execute and whether it will be necessary to pursue additional financing, such as a loan. Life circumstances and events may change your financial status for better or for worse over that time period, so you may choose to give more or need to give less than you originally committed.

How do I make my commitment?

By Commitment Sunday, the full congregation will be asked to provide a specific commitment for the giving period (2025-2027), including planned amount, installments, and frequency for giving (weekly, monthly, annually) via a commitment card. Commitment cards will be available at the Welcome Desk and can be placed in the locked boxes located in the foyer for collection by the church Finance Manager. There is also a QR code on the "Revive to Thrive" campaign brochure for making a commitment or donation electronically.

How do I donate toward my committed amount?

All the existing methods for giving will work for the campaign. A fund named "Revive to Thrive" has been added to the digital giving platforms, and donations should be made through this fund. Contact the Finance Office for information on non-cash donation options.

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Because of the fees incurred through our electronic giving options in Elexio, we ask that large amounts be given by check or by ACH or wire transfer. Contact Donna Fore for bank information for transfers.

When will the donations be made?

There will be a three-year period for donations toward commitments to be collected (2025-2027). We are funding a project that requires cash during this 3-year construction timeframe. However, the church will gratefully accept donations at any time. If you need to extend your donations beyond 2027, please contact Donna Fore.

Will my donation be tax deductible?

Memorial Church of Christ is a 501c(3) organization, so charitable donations are generally tax deductible. Every individual's financial situation is different, however, so we encourage you to consult with a financial advisor or tax professional before making significant charitable contributions. They can help you determine your specific situation and the most tax-efficient way to give and maximize the impact of your generosity. For information about giving options, you can also review the "Generous Giving" document on this website or contact Donna Fore at Finance@mcoc.org.

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Design & Construction:

Why rebuild versus remodel existing buildings?

Some of our current facilities are dated and require significant update. The Facilities team would like to be strategic in how funds are invested as the required repairs we are aware of today are costly and will only provide a short-term solution for our campus.

While there will be some instances where we choose to make repairs and/or re-model, our intent is to use available funds to invest in the future through re-building more updated structures to provide vibrant, functional spaces for our congregation now and for the future and enable the next generations to give and serve generously in ways other than through maintenance and upkeep.

How were the construction cost estimates developed?

During the master planning effort in 2022, the committee worked with our Contractor (Brookstone) to develop several cost estimates for the different phases of work. Brookstone was our Contractor for the education and chapel buildings constructed in 2016 and most recently our new HVAC chiller (completed in summer 2024). They have been in business for 60+ years and know the Houston construction market very well.

The estimates were reviewed and revised by the committee based on the assumptions made during the master planning process. Once design begins with the Architect, new estimates will be developed at several stages of the project. These estimates will be reviewed with the Finance Committee and Elders before construction begins.

In addition to the hard (construction) costs developed by the Contractor, the committee added an additional 20% to the budget for soft costs (design fees, furniture, insurance, etc.). This percentage was provided by the Architect based on their experience working with churches and similar projects.

Why is the total project cost so much higher than the estimate presented in the past?

Construction costs have increased across the industry and our Contractor (Brookstone) used a 6% inflation rate to increase our original 2022 costs to present dollars.

How does the design process work in the lead up to construction?

We will work with our Architect, Merriman Holt Powell (MHP), to expand on our master planning efforts and refine the scope of the project. They work with other consultants, such as civil engineers, structural engineers, and MEP engineers, to put together drawings based on input from the MCOC building committee.

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Who is involved in the design process?

The church has organized a building committee with a combination of different MCOG members. The committee includes volunteers from the facilities ministry, ministry leaders, church staff, members, and architects - leveraging professional expertise and real-life experience using and maintaining our current facilities. There will be different groups of people involved depending on which parts of the project move forward into design and construction.

Why does the Master Plan begin with Family Center modernization?

The Family Center building is used almost every day by our members and community. Once the Family Center is renovated, we plan to use it to meet for Sunday AM worship services while other aspects of the campus are under construction/renovation.

Additional design and subsequent construction will be initiated based on key decision criteria associated with commitment progression and funding levels.

Why do we need a new worship center?

We are a worship-centric church who seeks first to glorify God! Worship is connected to every facet of our mission to Love like Jesus, Lead to Jesus, and Live for Jesus.

Worship is the aspect that connects us all and impacts the highest number of individuals on a regular basis – including visitors who often experience our church family first through the Worship Center. It is the center of our spiritual journey as a body.

The Master Plan design provides a more communal experience for worship with improved acoustics for acapella singing, more natural light, and updated technology.

If we build a new worship center, will we return to one Sunday morning service?

No, the capacity of the worship center will remain similar in the new design due to local codes and regulations for our church property. Our footprint will remain the same, but this allows our 'faith'-print to grow.

Why do we need an additional large flex space?

Our current Oak View room is one of the most requested spaces for events, creating scheduling issues. It is also not large enough for many functions, and it is not separated from the adjacent hallway. To accommodate needs of larger groups and private events, the Master Plan includes a multi-purpose room on the North side of campus with 2,750 square feet, an acoustically contained space, and an additional kitchen.

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Why do we need new church offices?

Ministry staff bring life to the church as they inspire and equip others to do God's work. We are incredibly blessed at Memorial to have talented and devoted ministers and staff that are willing to sacrificially serve in so many ways.

Additionally, the church offices are a pivotal interface with the public and provide an impression which we want to be inviting and welcoming.

To retain strong ministers and staff and to enable the work of the church, we need church offices which provide an efficient and effective working environment.

Why do we need new facilities for Friendship School?

Friendship School is a ministry that is an outreach to the external community, as well as an important resource to Memorial families.

Friendship School grows faith in families. The curriculum shares Jesus's love with the littlest and most important in God's kingdom and provides early sound doctrine and a strong foundation for children to grow in their faith.

The Friendship School area is in the 1960s portion of the building. The building systems (mechanical, electrical, and plumbing) are beyond their useful life. The plan also includes additional classrooms, storage space and restrooms connected to the classrooms.

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Who is Involved?

Who is the Architect? Builder/Contractor?

Architect: Merriman Holt Powell Architect

Contractor: Brookstone Construction

Has a consulting firm been hired for this capital campaign?

We are pleased to be working with our brother in Christ, Kent Allen, as a fundraising consultant. Kent was a minister at the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Edmond for 24 years and subsequently served in various leadership roles at Oklahoma Christian for over 15 years, including Vice President for Advancement. More recently, Kent has been advising congregations on their capital campaigns.

Who is on the Capital Campaign Committee?

Who can I connect with for more information?

Committee	Elder Sponsors	Ministry Staff/Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brian & Ellen Bare• Don & Brooke Brockman• Clayton & Marilee Hamby• BJ & Jana McElroy• Bryce & Caroline Petersen• Skip & Cindy Wagner	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Frank Devine• Terry Montgomery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• David Duncan• Donna Fore• Scott Sawyer (Facilities Chair)• Kent Allen (Consultant)