

# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Capital Campaign Team

In early 2026, a committee was formed to explore the possibility of a capital campaign to support a sanctuary renovation. When this team, consisting of Maggy Cook, Brenda Day, and Margo Gunsser, gathered, the first decision necessary was whether to hire a campaign consultant.

In this decision, FPC consulted with The Presbyterian Foundation, an organization which assists congregations in both annual and capital campaigns. The Presbyterian Foundation advised that any capital campaign seeking to raise more than the congregation's annual giving should consider hiring a consultant. The Foundation recommended that FPC assess three bids from three separate firms—they passed along the names of two trusted firms and advised that we find a third, more local firm.



*The FPC sanctuary shortly after 1950s remodel*

After corresponding and interviewing the firms, the committee selected Richard Rogers of Horizons Stewardship. With over 25 years of experience, he has advised over 90 campaigns, raising over \$150 million. The committee's experience with Richard during the interview process has been reflected during the first several months of working together; he is an intelligent person with a keen understanding of churches and capital campaigns, he is kind, and he is honest.

The first step of determining whether or not to proceed with a capital campaign is a "feasibility study," to assess whether a congregation is ready. Taking the temperature of the members is a critical step to ensure that, if approved by Session, any campaign would find success

This began with a congregational information meeting held on Sunday, May 17 and again on Wednesday, June 3. The team presented why a campaign has been proposed, how the capital projects would transform our spaces and our congregational life, and specific details of each project, including costs. This project, if undertaken, would prepare our sacred space for the generations to come. It would have vital impacts, including some yet unknown, on our worshipping community.

Members of the congregation received a vision case statement, outlining the proposed projects, and were asked to complete a survey sent by Horizons Stewardship, which will compile a report to Session based on the results. This report will determine whether or not the congregation has the energy and desire to embark on a capital campaign.

Should this campaign be undertaken, it will represent a once-in-a-lifetime project to honor the history and legacy of our worship space while taking essential steps to help it better meet our needs and align with our church's mission. The life of our congregation would also experience significant disruption if the project proceeds.



*The FPC sanctuary today*

We are blessed to have our beautiful Social Center, which would temporarily house our worship and other activities while displaced (interestingly, during the major renovation of the 1950s, FPC worshipped at the Forum Theater on Main Street!). We are also blessed by our dedicated members, volunteers, and staff who work tirelessly to make First Presbyterian Church the thriving and loving community of faith that it is.