



THE HISTORY

Faith was born out of a pioneer spirit to reach new people with the love of Christ. In 1970, our founding generation *took a leap of faith*: they built the first United Methodist church of Spring and the only United Methodist church on the I-45 corridor between Houston and Conroe.

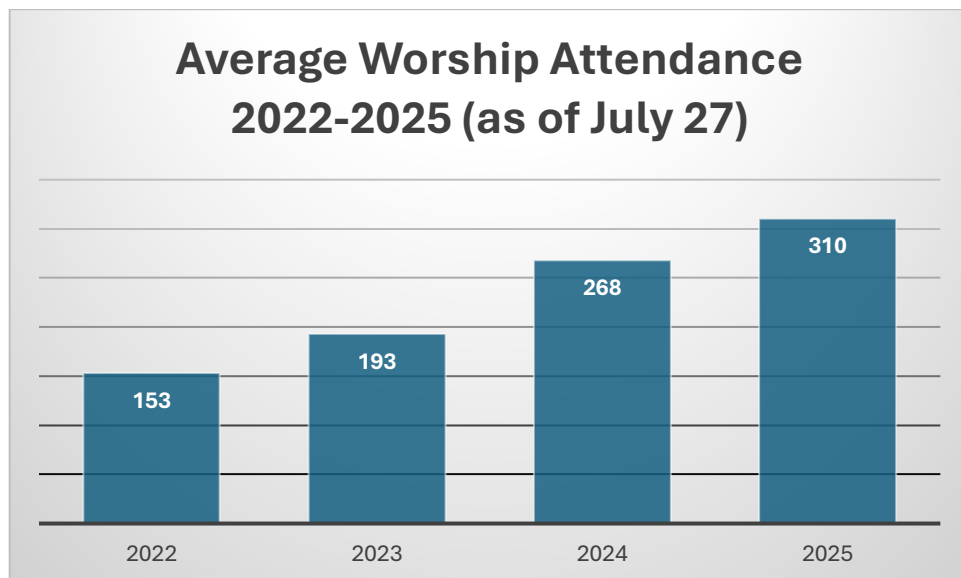
Our original home was on Sawdust Road, on the west side of I-45, but it was on the east side of I-45 that Spring was booming with new houses and blossoming with young families. Therefore, in 2006, we *took a leap of faith*: we sold our first building and moved to our current location on Rayford Road. In 2008, Faith built the education building for the expansion of Faith Kids Preschool, and in 2022, Faith sold the portable building where we were holding youth group and built a permanent home for the youth ministry.

For 55 years, the people of Faith United Methodist Church have been living up to our namesake: **we take leaps of faith**. It's what we do because it's who we are.

THE NEEDS

Now our congregation is fulfilling the wildest dreams of our founders.

- Worship attendance has more than doubled since 2022, and on many Sundays, it's tough to find a seat in the 9am traditional service.
- All the rooms in the main building are occupied on Sunday mornings with classes.
- Faith Kids Preschool has reached capacity in the current floorplan of the education building.
- We've run out of storage for the donations we collect to bless our neighbors.
- The youth building can barely contain the number of students on Wednesday nights.





The fact is, our ministry needs for reaching new people with the love of Christ are beyond the capacity of our building. It's time to live into our namesake. It's time to take another leap of faith.

In February 2025, our church council, One Board, established a Building Committee to research the condition of our existing buildings and explore options for renovation and expansion. The Building Committee discovered several building needs and opportunities for growth, including:

Remodel the Sanctuary Renovate Common Spaces Build a Missions Closet
Improve Campus Hospitality Expand Faith Kids Preschool Build a Community Center

The Building Committee engaged Merriman Holt Powell (MHP) Architects to provide the preliminary designs and budgets for two types of projects: a “Renovation Only” project that would include the entire scope of work listed above except for the Community Center; and an “Expansion Plus Renovation” project that would accomplish everything at once. For six months, the building committee has been meeting, discerning, and compassionately debating in order to arrive at a recommendation to the One Board and then to the congregation. **The time has come to gather feedback from the congregation about which building project we should take on now.**

THE PROPOSAL

Pastor David has a new vision for our church called Leap of Faith. The purpose of Leap of Faith is to grow in three strategic areas of our ministry: worship, service, and the discipleship of young people, with goals to achieve by the year 2030. These three areas of ministry represent three fundamental movements, or “leaps,” in the life of a follower of Jesus: we leap upward in worship, we leap outward in service, and we leap inward in discipleship.

The Leap of Faith vision has three core goals and two building projects per goal.

1. **Awesome Worship** – Grow average weekly worship attendance to 500 persons (currently 310).

- Remodel the Sanctuary for better sound and lighting and expanded seating.
- Renovate Common Spaces, including the Narthex, Community Room, bathrooms, and hallways with new furnishings, signage, lighting, and paint. Convert the Community Room into a true multipurpose space for use by Bible studies, larger classes, wedding and funeral receptions, and Faith Kids Preschool indoor play.

2. **Lead in Service** – Design intentional spaces for feeding the hungry, supporting local schools, and welcoming community partners.

- Create a Care Closet for storing food, clothing, school supplies, and other non-perishable items collected by our church for blessing the “least of these.”



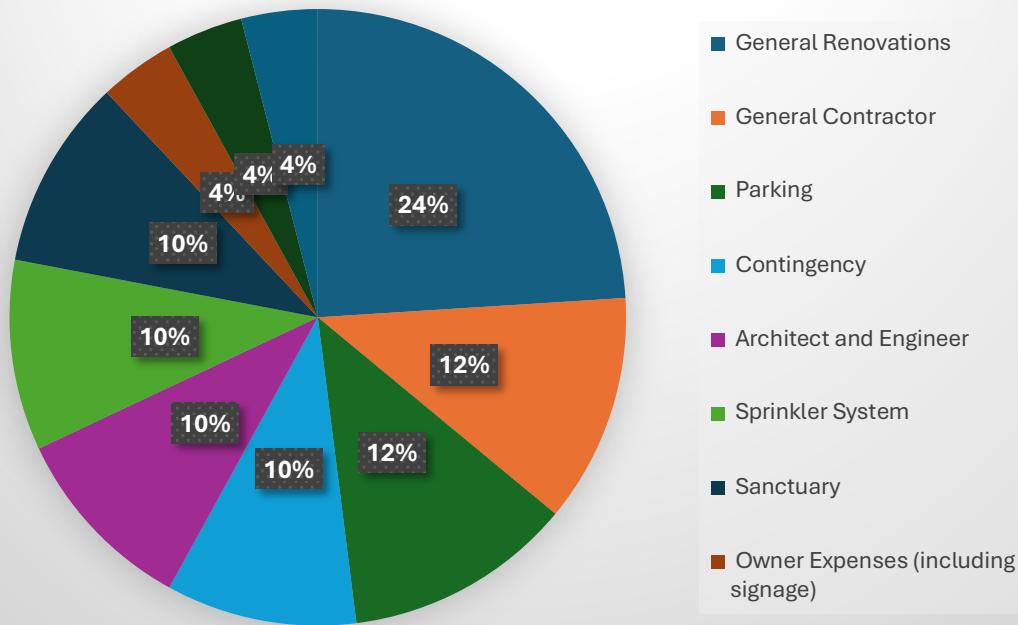
- Improve Campus Hospitality by adding parking, lighting, and signage for visitors to our campus and participants in Scouts, Narcotics Anonymous, and other community ministries, as well as installing a sprinkler system for the safety of all.
3. **Invest in the Young** – Expand our children, youth, and Faith Kids Preschool ministries by offering new and larger outward-facing ministries.
- Expand Faith Kids Preschool by adding Kindergarten, Pre-K, and afterschool programs.
 - Build the Faith Community Center for reaching new children, youth, and their families with recreation, theater, dance, summer camp, and afterschool programs.

OUR CHOICE

The total cost of all of the Leap of Faith building projects listed above is anticipated to be \$7.5 million, as of July 2025. These projects will be conducted in phases over several years. The decision before the people of Faith is: **what is the right project for now?** Here is the breakdown of the cost of the projects.

- The community center alone is projected to cost \$5 million. The cost is driven by the size of the building: around 9800 square feet, large enough to accommodate a middle-school regulation basketball court and a stage, kitchen, and bathrooms. A building of this size allows our church to host indoor basketball, volleyball, soccer, and theater groups, as well as large-group programming for our children's, youth, and Faith Kids ministries.
- The remainder of the projects costs \$2.5 million. A round-dollar breakdown is:
 - \$600,000 general renovations, including Narthex, Community Room, restrooms, hallways, classrooms, missions closet, and the youth building
 - \$300,000 for General Contractor services
 - \$300,000 for additional parking
 - \$250,000 contingency (10% of total project cost)
 - \$250,000 for architect and engineering services
 - \$250,000 for a sprinkler system in the main building
 - \$250,000 for sanctuary renovation
 - \$100,000 for owner expenses, including signage
 - \$100,000 for Faith Kids preschool renovations
 - \$100,000 for sound, video, and security system updates, including AV capability in the narthex and adult classrooms

Leap of Faith - Renovation Budget - \$2.5 million



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Wait, what are we building?

We're not sure yet! Our building committee is discerning between two projects, the community center or the renovation project. Both projects are of the Holy Spirit, critical to the vision of our church, and God willing, will become a reality.

The decision before the building committee is, **What is the right project for now?** We're gathering feedback from the congregation in town halls and a churchwide survey to help us make the decision. The building committee will make a recommendation to our church council, called One Board, in August, then the One Board will call a church conference to present the final building project to the congregation.

Why now?

There are a few essential renovation items that our church needs to address (see below). But more than that, our church is growing, praise be to God, and our facilities need to be updated to keep up with the growth and allow for more growth.



The Leap of Faith vision is a vision for the growth of our church. The renovation of the sanctuary and common spaces will help us achieve our goal of 500 people in worship on Sundays – a leap upward in worship.

The upgrade of our campus hospitality, including lighting and parking, and the creation of a mission's closet will help us grow in service to the visitors and community members who use our campus and the "least of these" in our mission field – a leap outward in service.

The expansion of Faith Kids Preschool, the renovation of children's classrooms and the youth building, and, one day, the construction of the community center will help us raise up a new generation of disciples of Jesus Christ – a leap inward in discipleship.

How did we get here?

In December 2024, we completed a master plan for the renovation and expansion of our church buildings. The master plan is a 10-year vision at least. The master plan includes a new building to accommodate the growth of our congregation, the expansion of the education building to accommodate the growth of Faith Kids preschool, additional youth ministry space, renovation of the sanctuary, and additional parking.

The One Board authorized a building committee in January of this year. The building committee was charged with developing a Phase One project, with the expectation that the building committee will deliver a Phase One plan to the One Board by August of this year.

What are the essential renovation items?

First is Faith Kids Preschool. Faith Kids has a calling to open a kindergarten class, an additional Pre-K class, and an aftercare program. The kindergarten class would go in the education building; the additional Pre-K class in the main building, where the current nursery is located; and, if we pursue the renovation scope, the aftercare program would go in the renovated Community Room.

Second are the deferred maintenance items on campus. The HVAC unit servicing the Community Room needs replacing. There is water damage in the cupola of the sanctuary. Landscaping needs to be done in order to expose the foundation of the main building and drain water *away* from the building. All of these expenses are accounted for in the "General Renovations" budget.

Third is the renovation of the sanctuary and narthex. Acoustic treatment, including the installation of sound paneling, *must* be done in the sanctuary for a better sound experience. A new lighting package must be installed for a better visual experience in-person and on livestream. These expenses are accounted for in the "Sanctuary" budget. Then, the Community Room needs a complete makeover in order to be a true multipurpose space for use by adult Bible



studies and classes, receptions, and Faith Kids Preschool. These expenses are accounted for in the “General Renovation” budget.

What happened to the MAC?

Great question. The MAC (or “Ministry Activities Center”) was the main component of the most recent capital campaign at Faith in 2019. The MAC was the equivalent of the Community Center, though it also included a youth ministry space. The MAC would have cost \$4.5 million in 2019. The congregation raised just above \$300,000. Those funds were repurposed, with donor permission, to build the current youth building.

Our staff was able to locate the feasibility study from the MAC campaign conducted in 2018. Only 36 people completed the congregational survey that tested for buy-in to the campaign, and only 29 people said they would make a financial contribution. Further, the fundraising consultant recommended a fundraising range of \$1,296,727 – \$2,381,955, even though the MAC estimate was \$4.5 million. Our church was just under \$1 million in debt at the time.

A fundraising publication from the campaign shows that the funding plan was to raise half of the \$4.5 million, borrow the remaining half, and conduct a campaign in the future to pay off the debt.

We can learn at least three lessons here.

First, we should listen to the advice of our fundraising consultant. The consultant we hired in 2018 gave us a realistic fundraising range. He recommended between \$1.2 million and \$2.3 million. Our church pursued the highest number in that range, banking on the congregation being willing to take on debt to service the remainder of the capital expense. We’re working with a new fundraising consultant, Dr. Norma Quinn of Horizons Stewardship, who will provide a new fundraising range for this upcoming campaign after she completes her feasibility study. The feedback from the townhalls and survey are critical to the feasibility study.

Second, we need congregational buy-in to the Leap of Faith vision. The MAC survey only had 36 completions, and only 29 participants said they’d be willing to make a three-year financial commitment. More than that number ended up giving to the campaign, and gave generously, but not many.

Third, our congregation was not comfortable with a large debt service in 2019. It appears the funding plan for the MAC was to raise half and borrow half, up to a \$2.25 million long-term debt service. The results of the campaign demonstrate that the congregation did not agree with this plan. That doesn’t mean all debt is bad, but the people of Faith weren’t interested in a debt service that large.



What is the financial health of the church?

In short, we are in great shape, thank God! We have zero debt. Our church operating budget of around \$1 million is expected to be fully funded this year through pledged and non-pledged income.

However, the church is not sitting on a large pile of cash. We have a small reserve fund for emergency cash flow, not building improvements. We also have around \$100,000 dollars in a capital campaign account ready to be utilized for the building campaign.

It's also helpful to know how much Faith Kids Preschool contributes to our church budget. Faith Kids is a ministry of our church, not a separate entity. That means Faith Kids is not a profit center, but rather a mission of the church just as our children's and youth ministries are missions of the church.

Because of the wise leadership of our Faith Kids staff and board, Faith Kids contributes about \$160,000 per year to the church operating budget. This is not excess money, but rather the Faith Kids allocation of shared utilities, janitorial, insurance, and staff expenses.

When Faith was paying on the mortgage on our buildings as recently as last year, a third of the monthly mortgage payment was funded by Faith Kids. The remainder was funded by the church operating budget. Now that we no longer have a mortgage payment, a third of those savings were passed on to Faith Kids, and the remainder is funding church staff salaries.

What role will Faith Kids Preschool play in this campaign?

When our church decides the time is right for a capital campaign, there will be **one** campaign and not two. That means we will *not* run a "church campaign" and a "Faith Kids" campaign. Rather, we will work together on a community-driven campaign that supports all of the building projects, including the renovation of the education building.