

GO FURTHER.
LOVE DEEPER.
LIVE STRONGER.

EXTENDING OUR REACH

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and
lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him, and he
will make your paths straight.

PROVERBS 3:5-6

FAQ: VISION

PAGE 1 OF 2

Why are we having a capital campaign now?

For nearly 40 years, MGCC has been serving the Northwest Suburbs. Now, after a few years of “rebuilding,” we want to enter our next forty years in as strong a financial position as possible so we can maximize our ability to Go, Love, and Live. One way we can do that is by substantially reducing or eliminating our existing mortgage and by replacing and updating our aging sanctuary technology to support the next generation of worship and worship leaders.

How did we arrive at \$750,000 as a goal?

National Covenant Properties, which is our denomination’s real estate and lending organization, has found that a reasonable goal for a campaign like ours is 1.5 to 2 times our annual giving. Since this is the first major capital campaign we’ve had in many years, we felt it wise to set the goal lower rather than higher.

How will the \$750,000 total be allocated?

- \$525,000 will go toward debt reduction or elimination.
- \$150,000 will be dedicated to replacing, upgrading, and adding to our Sanctuary audio and video equipment.
- \$75,000 will be divided equally among CROSS Services, Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge, and Covenant Pines Ministries.

Why are we tithing the proceeds? Doesn’t that work against us?

Our over-arching goal is to “extend our reach,” and supporting other ministries financially as part of this campaign is a practical way to GO further. The tithe (10% of income) is the basic (and minimum) biblical principle of stewardship, and since we ask our people and families to tithe, we believe we need to follow that principle ourselves. For many years, MGCC has tithed our regular income to missions, and when we received the ERTC relief funds after COVID, we tithed on those as well. God promises to honor generosity, and this is a way for us to be generous as a congregation.

FAQ: VISION

PAGE 2 OF 2

To whom will our tithe go? Can I choose my own recipient?

We have designated three organizations to receive our tithe: CROSS Services, Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge, and Covenant Pines Ministries. In order to ensure that each ministry is blessed, we have chosen to distribute equal shares to each. Therefore, individual donors cannot designate their support toward a specific recipient. Distributions will be made quarterly based on what we have actually received in the prior three months.

Who can participate?

Anyone with a desire to help MGCC achieve its goals can participate, regardless of age or connection to MGCC. However, we hope to have 100% participation by MGCC members and regular attenders.

How will paying down the mortgage help grow our ministry?

Each month, we pay over \$5,000 toward our mortgage—that's more than \$60,000 per year that's not available for direct ministry investment. Reducing or eliminating the mortgage will significantly increase what we invest in programming and other more fruitful expenditures.

Why make this effort when we have struggled to make our normal giving goals?

Almost all of our current operating deficit can be accounted for by our mortgage payments. Eliminating or significantly reducing what we owe on our mortgage is a tangible way of freeing our future congregation and leaders from the burden of this existing debt.

FAQ: PRIORITIES

PAGE 1 OF 2

Is support of this campaign over and above my regular giving?

Yes! The Bible speaks of giving *tithes* and *offerings*. Our normal giving should be at least a tithe (10%) of our normal income. Think of this campaign as an *offering*, which goes over and above that.

Can't we reduce other costs instead of doing this campaign?

Over the last few years, we have significantly reduced many expenses, to the point that there is little more we can do. Our hope is that reducing or eliminating the mortgage will enable us to begin restoring, strengthening, and adding important ministries for the future.

Will this campaign replace our current mortgage payments?

Not initially. We will continue making the payments we currently make. If we meet our goal, this campaign will allow us to eliminate our debt roughly 12 years earlier than presently expected and allow us to save approximately \$250,000 in mortgage interest that we would have to pay if we didn't eliminate the mortgage. Additionally, paying off our own mortgage will free up money for National Covenant Properties to invest in other churches and ministries.

What's included in the expected worship tech upgrades?

Sound and video technology upgrades we wish to make include a new sound console, new EV processor, a new in-ear monitor system for musicians, new integrated video cameras with processing equipment, new piano microphones, and a new speaker system.

Why do we need to spend so much on new sound and tech?

The sound system we have was appropriate when it was first installed, however much of it is aging, and has become unreliable and inadequate to provide the level of support we need for current and future worship and tech volunteers. Additionally, our current video equipment is unreliable and does not support the quality of online experience we desire or that people expect.

FAQ: PRIORITIES

PAGE 2 OF 2

Is any of this being used to pay our Youth & Family Pastor?

No. We have other funds we received as part of the Federal Government's COVID relief efforts which are designated to help fund the Youth and Family Pastor position. The funds from this campaign will only be used for the purposes we've stated here.

What will get paid "first?"

The tithe will be paid quarterly based on what has actually been received over the previous three months. We have prioritized the items in the tech portion and will attempt to spread them out over a reasonable period with anything beyond that going to mortgage reduction.

How will our ministry partners use the funds we give them?

We don't know all the specific needs of our ministry partners, but we trust them to use the funds they receive well. We will ask them for periodic updates on how funds received by them will be applied.

What will happen if we have a major unexpected building repair or other significant expense?

We still have funds from the land sale designated for major or unexpected building expenses. However, if we should need more than that, we will address that at the time in whatever way seems most appropriate.

What if we don't meet our goal? Or what if we exceed it?

We're taking the posture of thankfulness for everything we receive through this campaign. Even if the final result is less than anticipated, every dollar received that goes to reducing our debt frees up more dollars for ministry in the long run.

Any funds beyond what we need to complete our tech replacements and paying off the mortgage will be earmarked for additional facilities and equipment needs, which will be prioritized by the Leadership Team in consultation with our facilities manager.

FAQ: GIVING

PAGE 1 OF 3

Can I designate my gift to a particular part of the campaign?

No. This campaign has specific purposes and priorities. To ensure that those are met, funds will be disbursed in alignment with those purposes and priorities.

What methods and timeline are there for giving?

This is essentially a three-year effort ending December 31, 2028. During that time, you can give monthly, quarterly, or annually—or if you prefer, make a one-time gift at any time. You can choose whatever option works best for you.

In order to track progress toward our goal, we ask each person or family to return a commitment card. Once that is done, you can begin giving immediately, either by ACH (an electronic bank transfer) through the church giving portal or by paper check. If you wish to give stock or other financial instruments, please indicate that on your commitment card and we'll follow up with you. *We're discouraging gifts by credit card because of the high transaction fees.*

Are my gifts tax-deductible?

The same tax rules that apply to regular giving should apply to this, however, we are not tax specialists, so we suggest you direct any specific questions to your financial or tax advisor.

Can I contribute from an IRA or other retirement account?

Yes. Giving a Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD) from your retirement account could be a good way to participate. Again, we encourage you to direct specific questions you have about that to your tax or financial advisor.

How should I designate funds?

All funds must be payable to Maple Grove Covenant Church and must also be clearly designated for **"Extending our Reach."** Funds that are not designated that way are required by law to go into our general operating fund.

FAQ: GIVING

PAGE 2 OF 3

Can I give stocks or other appreciated financial assets?

Absolutely! Depending on your circumstances, there could be significant tax advantages to doing that, but you should still consult your financial or tax professional. If you are interested in pursuing this option, please let us know and we can help facilitate it.

Can I give other kinds of assets (e.g. a car, collectibles, or something similar)?

Probably not. Receiving stocks and securities is relatively straightforward, but other things can be more complicated, and our desire is to keep this as simple to manage as possible. Contact us if you're considering these kinds of assets.

Are my gifts anonymous?

Yes. Only a few people with a “need to know” will know who participates, and only the person responsible for recording donations will know the amounts given by any particular individual or family. Please remember that recording this information is necessary in order for us to provide giving receipts for tax purposes. Public reporting will only include the totals of commitments and receipts.

Can I give a “named” gift (e.g., a gift given in honor of _____)?

We realize that “named gifts” are common among many organizations and at times even in churches, but for this campaign—in order to maintain strict confidentiality—you're welcome to let us know you're giving with that intent, but we won't publicly disclose such designations.

FAQ: GIVING

PAGE 3 OF 3

What if something happens and I can't meet my commitment for some reason?

We trust that commitments will be made in good faith based on what you feel God is leading you to do. However, these commitments are not “contracts” and if for some reason it becomes clear that you cannot meet the designated amount, we will understand and be thankful for whatever you can give.

What if I want to increase my commitment partway through?

You're always free and encouraged to give more, if that becomes possible. That will be up to your own discernment.

Can I give beyond the end of the campaign?

Experience among many has shown that three-year campaigns are generally the most effective. Therefore, we will “close” the campaign at the end of 2028 and will ask people to make commitments based on what they believe is appropriate for them within that timeframe.

Are there other ways to raise money?

Theoretically, “yes.” Fundraiser events are often helpful for smaller projects, but aren't typically used for this kind of campaign.

Can we pay off our commitment early?

Absolutely! While we want to give people the ability to pay over time, early contributions will accelerate the progress we can make on both technology upgrades and mortgage reduction.

If you want to “kick-start” your giving by making a larger payment at the beginning and then spread the balance out over time, that would also be appreciated.