**SERVE CAMPAIGN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

***Thank you for visiting our FAQ page for the Cornerstone SERVE campaign. We appreciate the interest you are showing in this exciting project. The goal of this page is to address questions that are pertinent to the project and to provide you with current and accurate answers to those questions. We hope that this will then enable you to become an ambassador of accurate information for our community. If you would like to submit additional questions, you may do so at any time by sending an email to*** ***info@ourcornerstone.org******. Your question will then be forwarded to the appropriate person who can best provide an answer. This page will be updated as new questions arise or as new information becomes available. Thank you again for your interest in and support of this important project. It is an exciting time in the life of our church!***

**Who is serving on the executive team for the SERVE campaign?**

* Nathan Custer - Senior pastor
* Lisa Neal - Executive Director
* Chris Runyon - Campaign Manager
* Tim Garrett – Communications Director
* Greg Williams - Financial Development Director, Major Gifts Coordinator

**Who is leading the steering teams for the SERVE campaign?**

* Dave and Marsha Myers – Events Directors
* Jeannette McConnell - Prayer Team and Spiritual Growth Director
* Michelle McKinney - Children’s Ministry Liason
* Teri Dunlap – Administrative Director
* Janet Clark – Print Coordinator, Digital Media Coordinator
* Mark Confer – Student Coordinator

**Who is serving on the Building Committee?**

* Phil Morrison (Chair)
* Kathy Rohrs
* Ellen Traucht
* Phillip Connolly
* Elliott Rogers
* Dick McConnell
* Bill DeLong

**What is the anticipated schedule for construction, including proposed start and end dates?**

* Approval for this project requires an affirmative vote from the professing members, which will likely happen near the end of 2025. At the same time, we will be asking for financial support and commitments to the project. These 2 important commitments by the membership must be in place in order to determine the full scope and feasibility of the project. Once this is in place, we will work with the contractor to determine a start date, which could hopefully begin sometime in 2026. We estimate the construction to take around 9 months once it begins.

**Will the construction be done in stages? What are those stages and what will be done first?**

* The question of staging this project is difficult to answer at this time, as it will depend on several factors that are not currently known, such as church approval and funding. Staging the project would definitely increase the overall cost and timeline, so we hope to be able to do the project all at once. That being said, it does not mean that the entire church will be shut down during construction. We will work with the contractor to determine which areas will need to be closed and how the other areas that remain open can be best utilized to serve our congregation during construction.

**When and where will the design and construction details be available for the congregation to see?**

* While the drawings and renderings we have available at this time are the initial set and may be subject to change, we are excited to begin sharing them with everyone soon. The final architectural renderings and constructions plans will be part of the next phase in the process and will require additional funding. Therefore, they cannot be completed until after our capital campaign and church vote this fall. The building committee has put significant thought, time and prayer into this proposal to date and are anxious to share the progress details with you. This will happen in a variety of ways throughout the summer and into the fall, so please “stay tuned for further details”. Once the total scope of the project is finalized through the architectural phase, we will look forward to sharing that information with the congregation as well. We will update this answer with information on how to access design and construction details as they become available.

**What are the key improvements being made to the church, and how will this help us better serve our church and our community?**

* To serve children and families:
	+ Children’s ministry (nursery through 4th grade) move to the second floor
	+ New children’s welcome center, nursery, and toddler room with a restroom
	+ New sensory room for children with special needs
	+ Refresh the other children and preschool rooms
	+ Remodel of the preschool restrooms to allow for improved accessibility for preschool children
* To serve low-mobility friends:
	+ New accessible restrooms on same level as the sanctuary
	+ New accessible family-style restroom near BFLC entrance
	+ New elevator to sanctuary from Court St.
	+ Improved wayfinding signage
* To serve youth and all adults within and outside of the church:
	+ New café with plumbing and two new first-floor gathering areas with natural light
	+ New multi-use room with natural light
	+ Refreshed youth ministry rooms
	+ Traditional sanctuary upgrades including wooden wall enhancements, new seating, renovated stage with handrails and movable pulpit, improved flooring and lighting, balcony and bell choir safety improvements
	+ Newcomer hospitality improvements including better exterior and interior signage, fresh paint, new flooring, safety and security enhancements
	+ Kitchen ventilation and electric power improvements
	+ Office space renovations
	+ Chapel enhancements for usage as Prayer Room

**Have additional maintenance costs been considered as part of the renovation costs? Will that go up or down?**

* + Overall, we are updating many items which should actually lower our current maintenance costs. For example, the new flooring will be less expensive to maintain. There will, however, be some minor added maintenance costs (such as cleaning additional restrooms) that can be absorbed in the annual budget.

**Will we make any changes to the exterior of the building? Are we adding any square footage?**

* There are no changes to the exterior of the building in this project. However, the exterior signage will likely be updated. We are not adding any square footage to the building.

**How will we address additional updates that are needed but not included in this project (i.e. gym floor, adult Sunday School classrooms, kitchen updates, etc.)?**

* + These ongoing improvement projects will be budgeted and completed through the Facilities Maintenance Team, much like the multiple air handlers have been replaced in recent years. The gym floor is a project that has already been researched by the Facilities Team independent of the building project.

**How will we address mobility access for the proposed prayer room? Will the entrance to the chapel be changed?**

* + We explored installing a ramp down to the prayer room/chapel area from the sanctuary and found a major structural issue that will prohibit us from doing this, both from a cost and means of completion standpoint. We are disappointed that this may cause an issue for some of our low-mobility friends. We will make sure that there is always a prayer team member available in another area of the sanctuary to pray with anyone for whom this creates an issue.

**Is there any additional handicapped parking planned or changes to the handicapped parking location?**

* + Parking has not been studied by the building committee at this time. However, with the installation of the new elevator near the Court St entrance, we will be looking at how to improve accessibility into this entrance.

**What is the impact on the number of seats for the traditional worship service?**

* + The overflow area in the sanctuary will be used to install new restrooms and the new elevator, so this seating area will be eliminated. However, the Narthex wall will be removed in order to allow for some additional seating in the back. Our goal is to maintain the current capacity as best we can.

**Will the type of seating be changed in the sanctuary and/or the BFLC?**

* + There are no plans to change the seating in the BFLC. The seating in the sanctuary will be upgraded as a part of this plan. Maintaining the traditional feel of the sanctuary is a high priority, so any seating option selected must meet this requirement. The final decision on seating in the sanctuary has not been made at this time.

**When will I be able to make a financial commitment to this project? Over what time period will I be asked to contribute? Can I make a contribution now?**

* Between now and November of this year, we are asking you to prayerfully consider what it would look like for you to live a generous life and how God may be calling you to support this project. In November, we will ask you to make a financial pledge (commitment) to this project that could be given as a lump sum or incrementally over the next 3 years, or up until any debt obligation from this project has been satisfied. We are happy to begin receiving donations now if God is leading you to do so. If you begin giving now, please make sure your intentions are clearly indicated on your gift by earmarking it for the SERVE Campaign.

**How can I donate other assets to this project (i.e. property, stocks, securities, etc.)?**

* **Stocks and securities** - You can donate these types of assets by filling out a “Stock transfer authorization form” which provides basic information necessary to your security asset administrator. It also informs Cornerstone and our stock/securities administrator, McCarthy and Cox, of your intentions and prepares both to receive your donation. · Please reach out to greg@ourcornerstone.org for a blank copy of the “Stock transfer authorization form,” then send the completed copy back to greg@ourcornerstone.org.
* **Property** – this is a wide-open category with a wide range of how processing each gift would work. Some examples of property that could be donated to the SERVE campaign would include (but not be limited to) real estate, tangible personal property, oil, gas, and mineral interests, and in-kind donations. This type of donation would typically be approved by a committee ensuring mutual benefit to the church and the donor. Reach out to the Financial Development Director (greg@ourcornerstone.org) for questions and to initiate the donation.

**How can I make a legacy gift to this project?**

* To initiate a legacy gift to Cornerstone Church, you would typically make a planned gift, often through your will or estate planning documents. Designating Cornerstone Church as a beneficiary allows you to contribute to the church after your passing, supporting its ongoing mission. These gifts could include (but are not limited to) charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts, retirement plan beneficiary designations, bequests in a will, and life insurance beneficiary designations. Please work with the Financial Development Director (greg@ourcornerstone.org) and your financial advisor or estate attorney on these types of donations.

**Can I contribute to this project through a Qualified Charitable Distribution or a Required Minimum Distribution from my IRA? How does that work? What would be the advantages of doing that?**

* Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from a pre-tax IRA now start at either age 73 or 75 depending on your birth year. These are required withdrawals from an IRA, which become taxable income for the owner of the IRA. One option for these funds is to directly contribute them to a charity (such as Cornerstone Church) through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). This not only benefits the church but also lowers the taxable income for the individual. Anyone over the age of 70.5 can make a QCD from their pre-tax retirement funds and potentially lower their taxable income and RMD. It is important when making a QCD to have the distribution check made payable directly to the church, not the account owner, and in most cases the IRA administrator will forward the check directly to the church. Cornerstone has an introductory level “how to” document regarding this process available upon request. Reach out to greg@ourcornerstone.org to receive a copy. Due to the somewhat complex nature of these types of contributions, we highly recommend that you consult with your financial advisor for further information on this topic and to discuss the potential tax benefits.

**If there is a particular part of this project that is especially important to me, can I designate that my gift be used toward that part of the project?**

* We appreciate that certain aspects of this project will be more pertinent to some individuals than to others. But we also want you to appreciate all the thought, prayer, and planning that has gone into creating this proposal in order to create the greatest benefit for the greatest number of people. Every aspect has been carefully considered through the lens of how it can best SERVE the people of our church and our community. Therefore, we would ask for your support for the entire project if possible. If, however, you still desire to designate your donation to a specific portion of the project, you may discuss this with the Financial Development Director (greg@ourcornerstone.org) who will then present it to the appropriate committee for final approval.

***Thank you again for your support of this project and for being a part of this exciting time in the life of our church. Let’s SERVE God, our church, and our community TOGETHER!***