



Celebrating Christ’s Church at TAPC

For nearly a century Trinity Avenue has stood as a witness to Christ in our city. Small group ministries are thriving, our members are growing deeper in discipleship and closer in relationship with one another in new ways through worship and service. We support one another through life’s challenges and are finding new ways to welcome the stranger, “be the church” amidst the changing dynamics of our culture and address the dire needs on our doorstep. Our unique location at the intersection of so many demographics in Durham provides us with a vibrant mission field in which to build beloved community both outside of our walls and within.

Understanding our Financial Needs

God has planted us in a particular place with particular gifts to use for ministry, monetary gifts among them. In recent years, however, our financial needs have outpaced our income to varying degrees, despite staff vacancies and cost saving efforts. Examining our past, we see that, historically, a handful of families often provided support to balance the budget at the end of the year when it was needed. More recently, operating reserves have been drawn upon, depleting our safety net in the event of an emergency. We continue to refine our budget, but also see the need to pursue a deeper, sustaining level of giving. Our operating budget shortfall for FY 2016 was excessive- \$230,000. Components of the shortfall included debt service of \$83,000 and facilities expenditures, but also a budgeted (but unfunded) Associate Pastor position at \$75,000 and the difference between what ministry teams need and what we have to work with. Session has established a comprehensive financial goal that includes eliminating our debt so we can redirect funds going to debt service to ministry, raising funds for at least \$800,000 worth of identified capital needs to avoid future debt and increasing our annual income by a minimum of 20% to make our staff whole and expand our ministries. Our capital needs include:

Five Year Capital Needs

- 16 Air handlers
- New hot water heaters
- Kitchen equipment
- Roofing membrane repair & shingle replacement
- Parking lot drainage work and repair
- Repair of exterior church steps
- Replace sound systems
- Carpet replacement
- Redo sanctuary and chapel floors

Facilities Enhancements

- New directional signage
- Fellowship Hall Audio/Visual
- Sanctuary entrance update
- New Furniture in narthex and classrooms
- Sanctuary restroom update
- Choir loft flooring and seating

1

ENDOWMENT LOAN

Borrowed to complete the education wing and build the Chapel. \$460,000 remains. Repaid funds will be reinvested, yielding interest for ministry!

2

PILP LOAN

(PRESBYTERIAN INVESTMENT AND LOAN PROGRAM)

\$280,000 borrowed in 2016 for urgent sanctuary window and facilities repair needs. *Now paid in full!*

3

CAPITAL REPAIRS

Critical 5-year facilities repair and replacement needs total \$700,000. \$100,000 in facilities improvements have also been identified to enhance our mission.

A Plan for Sustaining is Blessed by the Congregation

On October 30, 2016, the congregation received a report about our finances and endorsed Session's plan to pursue a sustaining level of giving through a combined capital and operating increase campaign beginning in March of 2017. We have an incredible congregation at Trinity Avenue, and there is no telling what God can do when our financial vitality keeps pace with our vitality as a church. The greatest need for bolstering our day-to-day ministries rests with an ongoing operating budget increase of a minimum of 20%. This will not only fund our Associate Pastor position and properly resource our staff but enhance our other ministries as well. Funds will be directed to strengthening our communications, deepening our worship ministries, restoring our outreach giving following budget cuts and addressing the rising tide of poverty, addiction and gun violence in our neighborhood that threatens our community. We are not pursuing this increase for one year in order to rightsize our capacity. We are seeking a new baseline for our giving in order to fund the church that we believe God is calling us to be year after year. While the operating budget is our top priority, we must also raise at least \$1.6 million to eliminate our debt, maintain the buildings that have been entrusted to our care and update them to better meet our needs as we live into our mission in a changing world. The majority of the debt that we have incurred has been on account of the construction and renovation of our worship spaces that will nurture disciples for generations to come.

Lead Gift Phase Raises an Incredible \$1.4 Million!

On account of the steep challenge before us, a small group of leaders within the congregation were approached to see if, together, they might contribute a gift over a three to five year period that would cover the majority of our capital need. Together, these leaders have contributed gifts totaling *\$1.4 million and counting!* These contributions are gifts to our campaign in many ways. They are gifts that were given to scrub the debt from our record and to up-fit our facility for another generation of service. But they were gifts that were also given as a source of encouragement and inspiration for deeper generosity to the congregation as we all focus on the critical work of realizing a significant and sustained increase in our operating giving. These gifts enable us to focus on increasing our annual giving and not only aim to meet but to exceed our capital goal, with a stretch target of \$1.8 million. Thank you, lead givers, for your tremendous gift of love, encouragement, and confidence in what God is doing in and through the members of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church!

Our Call to Commitment

You are being asked to participate in both aspects of this campaign by discerning an increase to your annual gift and helping to meet the remainder of our capital need. We have been advised that the only way to attain an increase of 20% in our annual giving over a number of years and reach our capital needs goal is for every household to prayerfully consider increasing their current giving by at least 1% of their annual income before they make a pledge to the capital campaign. This means that we are asking you to search your heart, assess your needs and priorities and discern two gifts that are joyful, sacrificial, formative to your faith and that give glory to God. Please consider, first and foremost, an increase in your current annual (pledged) giving by 1% of your annual household income or greater so that we might fund our staff and ministries. Secondly, please discern a capital gift that is meaningful to you so that we might avoid future debt and reinvest our endowment dollars. These gifts will yield returns for years to come to the expansion and blessing of our ministries and witness. Thank you for giving in joy, sacrifice and faith to God's glory.