The Next Chapter

Frequently Asked Questions
April/May 2013
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is happening at HPBC?

We are very encouraged about what God is doing in our church community! People are experiencing the richness of faith and life in our church family – a family that is continuing to assess and improve the ways we do ministry. We believe it is time to take a great step forward in the renovation of aging facilities, and at the same time maintain our solid financial support of ministries that enable us to do what God has called us to do. Our goal in all of our ministries, staff, and even our buildings – is to continue growing disciples of Jesus Christ, worshipping God and transforming our world.

What is the purpose of the Next Chapter campaign?

The purpose of the campaign includes a financial goal and a spiritual challenge. The financial goal is to raise the funds necessary to renovate the Worship Center, improve the property frontage, and enhance the foyer, café & fellowship hall areas. We also aim to strengthen the giving that supports our many ministry efforts. The spiritual challenge is to have participation in some way by every household that calls HPBC their church home. The idea is that every person will consider how God has blessed them and then make a heartfelt gift toward this project.

How did we arrive at the current renovation plans?

This project has been a point of discussion at the Elder level for several years. Believing it was time to explore it further, a committee was formed over a year ago to put together some initial concepts and potential costs. Members of that committee were Dave Borror (Elder & Ministry Admin Pastor), Derrick Jackson (Music & Worship Director), Dave Londal (Trustee Chairman), Dave Kuntzman (Business Mgr), Dave Veldman (Facility Operations Manager), and Ken & Gina Van Tine (HPBC members and architects). The committee was asked to develop a long-term plan for the Worship Center, Atrium Café & Foyer, Fellowship Hall, and exterior signage and landscaping.

What if renovation is not my interest?

Remember, the vision is not just about building improvements, but about strengthening the effectiveness of a home base from which we can expand both our local ministry outreach, as well as grow our global missions’ initiatives.

Why are we investing in our facility when the missionary needs of the world are so great?

Having made the commitment to stay at this location, the goal is to make improvements and renovations that will enhance our ministry here in Southfield, which can then expand our ability to support God’s work around the globe. At the same time as this project, the Elders are proposing that we significantly increase (+ almost 20%) our annual budget for missions.
**Why don’t we just budget money to cover facility maintenance & upgrade needs?**

Our present budget includes $180,000 annually for facility maintenance & upgrades. This money allows us to keep up with routine maintenance only. Yet, with an aging facility, there is an endless number of projects that we could undertake, but not with a limited amount of annually budgeted resources. From time to time, we find it necessary to raise additional funds to meet the larger scale renovation needs.

**What is the financial target?**

We are praying for 3-year pledges that equal no less than five million dollars. We will proceed with each phase of the project, as we have the funds in hand. We will not borrow money. The property frontage ($350,000) will be the first portion to be completed. The Worship Center ($3,900,000) will be next, followed by the foyer, café, fellowship hall and missionary hallway (total $750,000).

**Are we going to borrow money to be able to proceed?**

No. This project is a “cash on hand” project. We will not proceed with any part of this project until we have the funds available.

**What should I plan to give?**

Good question! That’s between you and God. Not everyone has the same financial resources, but we are asking each to pray, and then give a gift that represents sacrifice. The amount given should represent a heartfelt spiritual decision and not simply an afterthought or an obligation. The Scripture challenges us to give generously to God’s work, and to give with sacrifice, passion and joy. Because we believe God has called us to continue strong in our current ministries, the amount you give should be above and beyond your regular giving to our church.

**How can I give?**

There are many ways you can contribute. Cash is the most obvious way, but you can also give real estate, stocks, bonds, life insurance policies, antiques, artworks, coin or stamp collections, income tax refunds, irrevocable or revocable trusts, jewelry – there are many other ways. Be creative! You can give through regular offering envelopes indicating amount for Next Chapter. There is also a place at the HPBC website to designate your online gifts to this project.

**Will there be individual, personal requests for pledges or donations?**

No. Each household is being asked to prayerfully consider strengthening their regular giving and committing to an over-and-above sacrificial gift (in the form of a 3-year pledge) to the Next Chapter initiative. You may hear testimonials of people who are willing to say, “Will you join me and my family in making a sacrificial gift?” but this will be in worship services or in other group settings where no one individual or family are being put on the spot or embarrassed.
**Will my pledge be confidential?**

Yes, unless you choose to share this information with others.

**Should I reduce my regular giving to give to this fund?**

Please do not. Our ministries depend upon the regular offerings for our general operating expenses. We do not want to undermine our current ministries with reduced giving. Please open your heart and give over and above your normal annual contribution. In fact, one of our goals is to actually increase the level of annual giving that fund our operating budget – we believe this will happen as our congregation participates in this journey of faith and generosity.

**What if I cannot give a sacrificial gift because I am a single-parent, on a fixed income, unemployed, or caring for ill parents?**

Please steward what you do have: enthusiasm, influence, hope, prayer. Pray for your leaders, pastors, volunteers, members, and for this campaign. Speak positively. Encourage others. Think clearly and ask the right questions. In short, do your best with what you have. Our Lord knows what you do have, and he knows what you can realistically give.

**When do I need to make this commitment?**

Commitment Sunday is May 19. Every household in the church will be given the opportunity to respond to the Next Chapter capital giving opportunity. The payout horizon for the capital commitment is three years. Our church family will be asked to make their pledge at the worship service, but you can also let us know of your commitment at some other time if desired. Even if someone is unable to make a financial commitment at this time, we will be asking that pledge cards be completed indicating a commitment to maintain a prayerful, united support of the Next Chapter initiative.

**What is a ‘First Fruits’ Sunday?**

The commitment is for three years. You can fulfill your commitment all at once or pay it weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually. On First Fruits Sunday, June 2, everyone will be encouraged to give as much up front as possible. At a minimum, we ask you to participate by making a generous offering of your three-year pledge. Some will utilize the tax advantage of giving a gift this year and in 2014, 2015 and 2016, allowing the pledge to be spread over four tax years.

**What happens if we raise more or less than our targeted amount?**

Our financial goal is on the conservative side for a church our size, and we believe with God’s grace we will attain it. We’ve prayerfully planned, asked for feedback, actively communicated, and sought God’s direction. However, if we do not receive sufficient pledges, we will adjust the timeline of completion or forego certain portions of the project. If more is raised, we will ask the trustees to prioritize the other pending needs for renovations that exist in other portions of our facility, and then make appropriate recommendations for use of excess funds.
**How soon will renovations begin?**

Since this is a cash-on-hand project, we will prioritize the work and complete projects as money is available. Our first project will be the property frontage - new signage & landscaping, which require city approval. We will then move to the Worship Center project, followed by the foyer, café, and fellowship hall – all as funds are in-hand.

**Is this project mostly to accommodate the needs of the contemporary service?**

This project will better accommodate both services. Increased flexibility will allow for the drum set and other equipment needed in the contemporary service to be moved out of sight during the traditional service. Likewise, the organ and piano can be moved on/off to better meet the needs of the contemporary service. Improved lighting, acoustics, seating, and HVAC systems will also better accommodate both services.

**What did we learn through the congregation assessment and survey?**

The Elder Report given to the congregation on Sunday January 13, summarizes the survey results. This can be found on the Next Chapter page of our church website, or is available in print on the Next Chapter table in the Atrium Foyer (beginning April 14).

**How long the worship center be closed and what is the plan for services?**

This will be an exciting time for us experience worship in some new places – for an anticipated six months of time needed for the Worship Center remodel. We will make use of our Gymnasiums, Fellowship Hall, Chapel, and Atrium Hall in creative ways throughout these months. Space will be maximized through the incorporation of live worship and video technology. We anticipate that there to be a strong sense of anticipation that will permeate the entire church family, and that adjustments in meeting locations around our campus will be a positive experience.

**Why do we need new seating?**

Our pews are not in good condition. They are not solid wood (hollow construction) - making repair difficult. Some are cracked, others rock back and forth, and fabric/padding is worn.

**What kind of seating will be in worship center?**

The new seating will feature a middle aisle, wider side aisles, and individual upholstered chairs with arms. This type of seating seems to be the one best suited for the anticipated needs for the next 50 years. Research also reveals that people will sit closer to each other with this kind of seating - allowing us to more fully utilize and identify seating capacity.
**What will the new seating capacity be?**

We are planning for a capacity of 925 – main floor and balcony. We are currently averaging about 500 in each morning worship service.

**Will there be adequate handicapped seating?**

Yes, handicapped seating will be provided as per building codes. The location of ADA seating is reflected on the architectural renderings.

**Why is the sound booth being moved?**

Experts in sound technology have told us that it is best for the sound booth to be on the same level that most of the people sit - allowing the technician to hear what the majority of people are hearing. The sound booth will be set-up in front of the rear cross aisle (giving space between the booth and people behind it) and will be recessed enough so that the sound technicians will be at the same level as the general audience.

**The costs for this seem excessive. Has anyone bid this project?**

The initial costs that have been communicated are estimates based upon industry standards. We have also included some money for contingencies – to assure that we will not need to come back to the church family and ask for additional funds. Ken & Gina Van Tine (our architects) helped develop these estimated figures. When the final project drawings are completed, a bid package will be assembled and the entire project will be sent out for quotation to several reputable contractors.

**Should we wait for the economy to rebound?**

Despite a tough local economy, our regular giving is up significantly over last year! Attendance is up, memberships are up, and there is a sense that God is at work among us at this time. Experts agree that pledging in an economic downturn is actually safer and produces more reliable results than pledging in an upturn. Plus, the competitive environment is ideal for getting lower construction costs.