

## Questions & Answers

**Why are we addressing our debt now?** – This is a continuation of the strategic decision to reduce debt. Paying off debt strengthens the mission of the church by continuing our growth toward greater financial stability. We believe God is calling us to build a stronger financial future by building on the success of the past three years' campaign.

**How did we arrive at the goal of \$1 million?** – One million dollars is the projected principle reduction associated with our mortgage payment over the next three years. The operating fund is currently strong enough to cover the interest associated with the mortgage but we haven't reached a point where the entire obligation is funded. If we reach this goal and have the same over and above experiences, we will exceed \$1 million debt reduction in the next three years.

**What will happen if we exceed our goal?** – All funds received in this campaign will be designated for debt reduction.

**How does what I give to this campaign affect what I give in my regular offering?** – Your pledge for this campaign should be over and above any pledge to the annual stewardship campaign. Taking away giving to the general budget jeopardizes existing programs and staffing. Most families have two pledges-one annual pledge to the general budget and one three-year pledge to the capital campaign .

**Can I give monthly instead of weekly to the campaign?** – Choose a way of giving that meets your needs. You can give weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually. You can pay by cash, check or credit card. Many find that giving appreciated stock or IRA withdrawal funds has a tax advantage.

**What happens if my financial situation changes after I make my three-year commitment?** – Circumstances change for better or for worse and this pledge can be raised or lowered simply by contacting the financial secretary, Bren McCollough, at [bren.mccollough@geistchristian.org](mailto:bren.mccollough@geistchristian.org) or by phone at 317.842.3594.

**When and how do I make my pledge?** – Make your pledge by worship weekend of August 17/18. You can place a pledge card in the offering plate, mail it into the church office or pledge online at [www.geistchristian.org](http://www.geistchristian.org).



## Chair Peoples' Testimony

Lynn & Andrew Lewis

Throughout the history of our church, members and friends of Geist Christian Church have provided the necessary resources to build and sustain the ministry of the congregation. We are committed to the long-term mission of our community in Geist and Fishers. As one church in two locations, we have outstanding facilities which are used to spread the gospel and care for our children, youth and adults.

We want our church to be as strong financially as possible so that in good economic times and bad in the future, we can continue to serve our mission. We don't want debt getting in the way of serving the congregation's needs and bringing others to Christ through mission and ministry.

The interest on the debt (\$440,000 per year) is the second largest line item in the budget behind salaries. It is 4 times the budget for programs. There will be a future day when budget for programs far exceeds debt payments. We want to be leaders in getting the church to that position by paying down the debt as quickly as possible. With your support, this campaign will help us achieve this goal.

Let's leave a stronger church for the next generation, just like the congregations of the past built for us these great buildings and programs that fill them. We invite you to join us in this important effort that we might continue to strengthen our ministries and build a strong future.



## What is "One Church Together"?

In the spring of 2016, Geist Christian Church held a three year building fund campaign called {Renew Together}. The goal of the campaign was to raise 1.2 million dollars in three years, over and above our donations which support the general budget of the church. Each dollar raised was to be used to reduce the debt.

Pledges to the campaign fell slightly short of \$1.2 million but total gifts exceeded the goal! Pledged income was \$1,040,000 with \$992,427 received during the 36 months. Additional over and above pledged gifts of \$95,000 and \$53,000 of building fund cash helped us reduce the debt by \$1,229,000. Our total debt now sits at \$9.5 million.

To continue this strong forward movement and ensure a sound future, we need to renew again. This is One Church Together. We want to raise \$1 million in three years, over and above our general budget gifts, to support the building fund.

Every dollar will be used to reduce principal. Interest on the loan and other church maintenance projects will be cared for by the general budget.

Every dollar raised will reduce the obligation of the congregation and reduce future interest costs over the life of the loan. For every \$100 given now, an additional \$100 is saved in interest costs over the projected life of the loan.



**Our two buildings support ministry in a variety of ways.**