



## Capital Campaign

First Congregational Church of Berkeley – Berkeley, CA  
Spring 2023

### Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

**Q: What is the project we're seeking to fund?**

**A: *Build. Gather. Grow.*** will raise the additional funds necessary for us to rebuild our primary program facility – which will house church offices, a large assembly opening onto an outdoor worship and gathering space, a kitchen, classrooms/youth/meeting space, all-gender restrooms including a shower, and a library/coworking space – all light, bright, energy-efficient and fully accessible.

**Q. What is the history of this project and where are we now?**

**A:** In September 2016 our primary program building, Pilgrim Hall, built in 1925, caught fire and was destroyed. Blessedly, there was no loss of life. We arbitrated a final insurance settlement, and that process fully resolved in late 2019. Between 2016 and 2020, the congregation spent a good deal of time reimagining what we needed to suit our campus and the changing needs of our church and community, including that any building nearly 100 years old would not be rebuilt exactly the same due to changes in various building codes and new green-energy and accessibility requirements. From 2020-2022 the Church worked with our architects and the City of Berkeley to finalize and permit the building project. Subsequent pandemic-related supply-chain issues and inflation resulted in the cost of the building plan exceeding the insurance settlement by about 10%. The original plan had built in a generous contingency but the unexpected global inflation exceeded even our prudent planning.

**Q: What will the new spaces be used for?**

**A:** The new building will give us room to host more ministry and events for our church and the wider community onsite, allowing for increased social connection, service to others, creative worship and more. We will finally have dedicated, flexible space for various affinity groups like youth, families, young adults, and elders. We will also have space for embodied worship through food, the arts, and contemplative practices.

**Q: How much does our building cost and what portion are we seeking to fund with the Capital Campaign?**

**A:** The community building will cost approximately **\$10M** to build. Insurance proceeds will pay for the bulk of the costs. The capital campaign seeks to fund a small portion of the total. Approximately **\$800K** in capital funds will be required in order to complete the basic permitted building. In order to complete several building enhancements such as a functional cooking kitchen, integrated audio-visual equipment, and a tiled labyrinth, additional funds will be needed.

**Q: Where is the money we're seeking to raise coming from?**

**A:** The money raised in our campaign will come from the members of the FCCB community. Our campaign theme is ***Build. Gather. Grow.*** This capital campaign effort is a three-year commitment, and each of us will be encouraged to make a financial pledge that will challenge us to stretch ourselves in our giving over the three-year period above and beyond our regular sustaining gifts to the church.

**Q: What are the priorities for our building?**

**A:** The first priority is to fund the basic permitted building (**\$800K**), **our Build Goal**. The next priority will be to fund the additional enhancements (**\$600K**), **our Gather Goal**. Funds raised beyond that would be put toward a fund to maintain, update, and enhance our physical plant as future large expenses arise, **our Grow Goal**.

**Q: How much should I give?**

**A:** There is no simple answer or formula of how much to give. Each member is encouraged to prayerfully discern and commit a gift that best reflects your heartfelt feeling for First Congregational Church and how this community has benefited you, your loved ones and even countless people you have never met.

**Q: When should I make my pledge commitment?**

**A:** Commitment Sunday is **Sunday, May 14**.

Leading up to Commitment Sunday, we are having a number of fun, inspiring and informative events:

- Small-group informational meetings (Launch Parties) throughout **March**
- Spiritual formation and prayer events and activities will happen in **March & April**
- An advance commitments reception (for those interested in making early commitments) will take place on **Thursday, April 27**
- An all-church gala and children's party will happen on **Wednesday, May 10**