



*Celebrating  
Our Journey*

## **Answers to Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is our need?**

“God of creation, maker of all things, we gather in this place to pray. We do invite you, come now among us; come build our Church today.” Our church is both the people and a place or facility. The most important element is the people; however, in our secular world we need a place to gather, to worship and to pray. We need a place to learn, to grow in fellowship and be renewed.

Jonesville United Methodist Church has existed for over 180 years. Our forbears had vision, commitment and faith to first build and preserve and then expand the physical church. Today, we have the opportunity to pick up the mantle worn so well by those who came before us.

We are embarking on a fund raising campaign with the theme, *Celebrating Our Journey*, which will address a multitude of challenges from the restoration of the basic structure of our church, to the condition of façade, to the mechanical systems, and to the satisfaction of overburdening debt. In recognition of the strong desire of many of our members, we are including support of missions as a major component. None of these components is a “ribbon cutting” project that by itself captures the imagination. Restoring the facilities and addressing debt lack glamour that catches the imagination. However, people of vision will see beyond these simple components to a grand vision. We are developing a grand vision. Each of us will have an opportunity to contribute to the development of our vision. We are indeed building our church, or re-building our church, the home for our spiritual family, for the current generation and for those to come.

Our church is built by the hand of God. Let us contribute in our own way to God’s divine efforts. Prayerfully consider how you and your family shall lend your hand to our collective effort as the spiritual family of Jonesville United Methodist Church.

## **What is our facility plan?**

Over the course of the last five years, the Board of Trustees has addressed a number of significant projects including, replacing six heating units, replacing several sections of roof, rebuilding the basic structure of the bell tower, and retrofitting our lighting.

The Trustees knew that our physical facilities had many issues and wanted a full assessment of our facility's condition. The architect and contractor for the bell tower project completed a full assessment for the Trustees. This assessment provides the basis for the projects that will be addressed through the Celebrating Our Journey Capital Campaign.

The church is a post and beam structure. Sections of this basic structure must be replaced due to rot and infestation. Some of the clapboard and trim on the exterior is in similar condition and must also be replaced. Another major set of issues involve the stained glass windows, their transparent protective covering, trim around the windows, and wood panels separating the windows. The paint on the exterior of the church contains lead. This material must be removed by professionals where it has chipped or flaked and must otherwise be sealed. Once this step is complete, the exterior shall be primed and receive a good quality coat of paint. Other lesser issues will be addressed, if sufficient funds are available.

## **Why pay off our debt?**

Jonesville United Methodist Church has carried a mortgage since completing the expansion of the sanctuary, building the fellowship hall, installing the handicap elevator and other major renovations in the early 1980's. In the last year, we borrowed to rebuild the structure of our bell tower. This winter we consolidated these debts to make them somewhat manageable. However, the debt service on these loans has limited our ability to expand and enhance our programs, ministries and missions

As part of the "Celebrating Our Journey" campaign, we will satisfy our outstanding debts. This will enable us to better achieve the Jonesville United Methodist Church's mission of welcoming all to develop and live as disciples of Jesus Christ.

The chairs of each of our ministries and committees that constitute the Administrative Council have been asked to provide a list of activities, service and ministries that they see as part of the vision for our church. During the campaign, each of you will be asked to brain storm about the missions, ministries and programs of the church. As we move forward, it is the combination of these ideas that will become the vision for our church. With the resources once committed to the debt service, we will be able to support this vision for the future.

## **What will these needs cost?**

We will need approximately \$650,000 to restore our facility and satisfy our debt and enhance our mission efforts. We know the amount of our debt. However, the cost of the projects associated with restoring the church is based on the best information we have at this time. More accurate figures will be available in the course of time as more estimates are available, at the time we complete the work and as underlying conditions are uncovered in the process of completing work.

## **Who is part of the campaign?**

Sunday, February 17, the “Celebrating Our Journey” campaign was introduced during the church service along with the leadership team for the campaign. Thirty-one individuals are part of the leadership. Our consultant has provided indispensable guidance and organization. He has broken the campaign into many manageable pieces. The consultant is providing the training for our teams. No one is being asked to do more than one task. Many more church members will become part of the campaign as we move forward. Various tasks will be completed by the team leaders and their teams. Eventually, a large portion of our members will be actively participating in the campaign.

## **How long does the campaign last?**

The Celebrating Our Journey campaign is an endeavor spanning three years. Church members may chose to support these endeavors through a lump sum contribution, yearly, monthly or weekly installments or combinations of these alternatives. As funds are received they will be allocated to address physical conditions of the church and parsonage, satisfy our debt and support missions. Of each dollar received, 70 cents will go to capital improvements, 20 cents to satisfaction of our debts and 10 cents to missions. We will use funds as they become available during the campaign. The Trustees will monitor church conditions and address needs based on their assessment of importance and/or urgency.

## **What is the breakdown of Campaign goals?**

Repair and reinstall as needed the Stained Glass Windows, replace rotted or infested sections of the post and beam frame, replace all missing and rotted clapboard on the Sanctuary, repair foundation of the Sanctuary, where necessary repair or replace roof, repairs and paint the Sanctuary exterior. Repay Endowment & Trustees Fund for funds used for previous Projects (Bell Tower, Roof Repair, and HVAC Replacement & Repair). Repairs and upgrades to the Parsonage, install or replacement floor covering in the classrooms, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, automatic ADA compliant side entrance. Build Trustees endowment fund against future needs.

**\$455,000**

Payoff Consolidated loan (Mortgage, Bell Tower)\*

**\$130,000**

Missions

**\$65,000**

**Goal \$650,000**

\*Debt will be paid off over a five year period, to minimize interest costs while avoiding prepayment penalties. In addition we will continue with our normal payments from the annual budget during this period.

## **What is expected of me?**

We as individuals shall pray for our collective efforts, pray that our efforts will be directed toward achieving God's desires for our church and each of us, and pray for God's guidance and grace so that our giving will reflect the gifts and blessings God has granted us. Also, pray that our gifts shall be an expression of our faith and God's blessing in our lives.

We would like each of you to become involved in Celebrating Our Journey. There are many tasks and much to do. Working together, praying together we expect to achieve much more than financial goals. We expect to grow as a church family, in faith, spirit, ministries and missions. We shall fulfill our mission of welcoming all to develop and live as disciples of Jesus Christ.

## **What should a capital campaign gift be?**

We will not achieve our goals by remaining in our comfort zone. Our needs will only be fulfilled through faithful sacrificial giving. We do not expect the same gifts from everyone. Our ability to give is not equal; therefore we do not expect equal gifts. However, the foundation of our gifts should be equal sacrifice. Many of our decisions in life, perhaps most, are reached through reason and consideration of facts. In reaching the decision for giving in this campaign, we ask that you rely on prayer and your faith.

## **What happens next?**

In your daily prayers, include special prayers for Celebrating Our Journey and how you can participate in the journey. Get involved, don't wait to be asked, become part of the Journey. Look for more information coming in the mail, from phone calls and during church services. Please make a special effort to attend the information sessions. If you have questions, ask during these sessions or any time. If the person you ask does not have the answer, they will either get the answer for you or direct you to someone who does have the answer.

*From the past.....*  
*Into the future.....*

