

GfG 2026 Capital Campaign Frequently Asked Questions

Where did the idea for the Grace for Generations come from?

Over the past several years the Council has been engaging in intentional discernment about how God is calling us to live out our mission to share God's love so that all are served and supported. We have been thrilled to see excitement and participation growing and we have been asking questions about how we can best position our congregation to serve our neighbors well today and for generations to come. Each of the 6 projects presented helps us to love and serve more boldly!

Have all of these projects come out of the blue?

No. Each of these six projects have been in the works for many years, but the congregation always had other more pressing property concerns. These projects all fit in the category of more strategic long-range projects that enables us to better love and serve our neighbors today and position us well to continue our important ministry into the future.

Can you tell us a little more about each of these six projects?

New Church Roof — The building was fully updated when the sanctuary was added in 1987. A new roof was added in 1999 and the church decided then to use a 25 year shingle. We are now 27 years into the life of this roof and we are starting to have more and more issues. This is a high priority project to ensure that roof leaks don't impede our ministry and the work of the many, many groups in our community that share our spaces.

Expanding the Back Parking Lot — This project has been the result of a long series of conversations. Some may remember an earlier plan to update the Carriage House behind the Council House. However, in the process we discovered that this house was in too bad of shape to be saved. The expanding of the parking lot will ensure that we have enough parking to match our seating in our worship space. These additional 25-30 spaces will also be a great asset to our community as we will be able to make them available to students and others who need parking downtown during the week. The cost for this project will be split between the campaign and the future parking donations collected. Additionally, the project will remove the dilapidated Carriage house, and regrade the property to provide more usable yard space for LSA and our youth and families ministries.

Updating the Grace Place — The house directly behind the church was purchased from the Crawford Family in 2006. Since then, we have used the house for LSA, community housing and, more recently, Intern Housing. We expect to continue to use the house for Intern and Staff housing moving forward. While we have done some key updates to the exterior and underneath the home, we haven't done any substantial work on the inside. This project will completely update the house bringing it from a 2 bed/1.5 bath configuration into a 3 bed/2bath house. Additionally, we need to make updates to key systems like the HVAC and the electrical system. This will be the first major update to the home in the 20 years we've owned the house and will create a space that we will be proud to put a staff member, intern, or local family in need of housing.

New Playground — In 2018, we updated the space next to the Fellowship Hall to turn it into a children's play area. We put up a fence to secure the area and added some small areas for children. The plan will be to finish this project with a new piece of playground equipment, along with installing rubber mulch to create a great space for children. The theme of the playground will be Noah's Ark which matches the theme in our Nursery. With all the small children and babies in our congregation

we know that they will enjoy this new space, and we believe that families with small children in the community might also be excited about stopping by during the week to play.

Councill House Update — The church purchased the Councill House in 2007, primarily for the land to add additional parking. The bonus was a great big old house which ultimately would become the home of our LSA program and a host site for retreat groups and serve groups through Lutheran Disaster Response. The house has 5 bedrooms and 3 full bathrooms and can accommodate up to 25 people overnight. Many updates have already been done to the house, including, new siding, new windows, new roof and, last year, all new electrical wiring and lighting throughout the house. The last few projects that remain include updating the two older bathrooms, doing a little refresh on the kitchen, updating what is left of the old plumbing, and updating the flooring throughout. With the bunk beds provided by Lutheran Disaster Response, the house will provide a great space for LSA and other groups!

Operational Cash Reserve — In 2017, the financial position of the congregation was very precarious. We had difficulty paying our bills each month without having to borrow from some of our other accounts. Since then, we have stabilized and strengthened our finances which has meant that we have ended the last seven fiscal years with a surplus! This is an amazing testament to the generosity of our congregation! Each year, we have been able to use a portion of the surplus to work toward building a prudent Operational Cash Reserve. We currently have one month of reserve that we have been able to save. This last project will be to build out a full three-month reserve which is the recommendation of accounting professionals for ministries like ours. The Council realizes that this is not the most tangible of the projects, but it is no less important, as having a prudent reserve means that we can respond boldly in real time to the movement of the Spirit when she calls us to love and serve our neighbors.

How much did the Wilkes Property sell for and how is it being distributed?

The Wilkes Property sold for about \$657,000 once all the legal fees and other things were paid. The Council and the Trustees for the Wilkes Property, agreed that a majority of these proceeds will go to establish an endowment of \$400,000 to support the property and other ministry needs of the congregation into the future. We estimated that this endowment will initially provide around \$12,000 a year for capital improvements and other ministry needs and will come close to matching the current Peeler Grant that we receive annually through the NC Synod. Meaning, in the future we will have around \$25,000 a year available each year for grant awards. The remaining \$257,000 from the Wilkes Property will provide a dollar-for-dollar matching gift for our Generations of Grace campaign!

Are we planning to borrow any money to complete these projects and when will construction begin?

No. We are going to complete each project as we have money available. So, we will not be taking on any debt for these projects. We are hoping that with a generous response from the congregation we will be able to sign contracts for the roof and parking lot this Spring and begin the Grace Place renovation this fall.

Can I give to a specific project?

We have structured the campaign in a particular order for the projects based on a variety of factors. Therefore, we are asking folks to simply give to the campaign and we will complete each project as the money becomes available.

What about the boiler in the sanctuary? Are there other projects that didn't make it on this list?

Yes. There are always great projects going on at the church. The Council has talked about replacing the boiler for the sanctuary, however, because of a new service provider who specializes in commercial boilers, we now feel confident that this unit is not yet ready to be replaced. The addition of the new furnaces in the other half of the building has already taken some of the load off of this boiler. We also know that we will need to repave the main church parking lot, however, this would need to be a part of a larger strategic facilities plan for the main church building which the Council has not yet completed. Other projects are smaller and could be covered through the endowment and grant that we will receive each year.

What about the Seminary Intern (Vicar) Program?

We have been disappointed not to have been assigned a Seminary Intern for the past two years and we know that next year will again not be receiving an intern. This is reflective of wider trends in seminary education both in the number of students and the percentage doing seminary coursework online. We will hope to be able to have interns again in the future, but for the next couple years will be taking a break from the program while it undergoes systemic change. We do hope that the Vicar program will continue and that Grace will be able to again be a host site.

What about the community housing project that we have discussed?

This project is still very much on the table. However, it became clear to the Council that it was important that if and when we take on such a big project, we do so from a strong and sustainable base. In many ways, this project idea is what helped us to bring these other important projects into focus. Additionally, a lynch pin for the housing project was our ability to secure the AT&T property next to the Grace Place. We have been unable to get any movement on the part of AT&T and the Council decided that we would move forward with these other projects while keeping the line of communication with AT&T open.

What is the best way to give to the campaign — Pledge vs. one-time gift?

This is something called a "Blitz Campaign" which means that we will be doing projects as money becomes available. So, one-time gifts are greatly appreciated to get the ball rolling. However, we understand that for some, a structured month gift for the 18-months of the campaign is the preferred way to give. And, this is great also! So, givers have the option to give a one-time gift and/or pledge a gift over the course of the campaign. All gifts are helpful — however, and whenever they are received. And remember, that each gift is matched dollar-for-dollar!

Can I give stock?

Absolutely! Many congregational members already give stock as part of their regular annual stewardship contribution. It is often considered one of the best ways to give to churches and other charitable organizations.

Can I give online?

Yes. Gifts may be made through the links associated with the campaign, or through the online giving portal on the church's website.