



LIGHTING  
THE WAY  
Riverside's Capital Campaign

# Where We Came From ...

Did they know what they were seeding, and how it would grow?

In 1890, five people started Riverside Church, and built a wooden structure a year later at our current site on State Street. In 1912 the church replaced that first building with our iconic stone structure. The west wing was added in 1956.

In the 133 years since its founding, the church has been witness to dramatic changes in the Hood River Valley and the Gorge. Our congregation has touched the lives of countless people, through weddings, funerals, Sunday services, graduations, pear harvests, the damming of rivers, the construction of highways and railroads, the dislocation of marginalized peoples, and the tumultuous events of our age, from wars to social conflicts our founders in 1890 could not have imagined.

In recent years, we have re-imagined, by faith, what could happen if we opened our big purple doors to the broader community. In 2013, we voted to become an “open and affirming” congregation, welcoming and embracing those of all sexual orientations, gender identity and gender expression. We remodeled our kitchen and Riverview Room, making them the center of many community services and events. In 2016, we voted to fully divest from the fossil fuels industry. In 2019, we raised more than \$20,000 to repair and update our spectacular pipe organ. In 2022 we hosted the “Train of Tears” event to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the forced removal of more than 400 community members of Japanese ancestry. In a packed sanctuary, we shared a declaration of apology and commitment to action with our Japanese neighbors, vowing to never again be silent in the face of such injustice. We are exploring our connection and ways to serve the many communities around us, from our immigrant brothers and sisters, to the natural world.



But we have only just begun. In 2022, our congregation came together to rededicate ourselves to the mission of Jesus.

We adopted a mission statement: “We are a vibrant, Spirit-filled community seeking to follow in the ways of Jesus, love and care for our neighbors, do justice, act with humility, and be an example of the extravagant grace of God to the whole of creation.”

Over months of gatherings and discussion, we adopted two mission priorities:

### Mission Priority One:

For the purpose of creating a just and loving community, we will build relationships with our broader community, connecting, serving, and striving for social and environmental justice.

### Mission Priority Two:

To deepen and strengthen our grounding in the sacred, we will provide an inclusive environment for the spiritual growth of a diverse congregation.

More than 100 years after our founding, we know it is our responsibility to once again invest in our church's physical structure through our Lighting the Way Capital Campaign. Our building is a vital and vibrant piece of who we are and how God works through us to bring healing and justice into our community and world.

We are preparing the way for the generations and times ahead that we, in our limited view, cannot imagine. Just as those five founders could not imagine in 1890.

# And ...

# ... Where We're Going



"I have come to see the building not as an object, but as a full partner in our vibrant ministry. If the walls could talk, they would tell tales of healing, birthing, dying, grieving and rejoicing. They would tell of a place of welcome. A place where outsiders become insiders, where the fearful feel safe, where justice is sought and love is revealed.

"I have seen and felt the miracles that happen in this place, and that is why I will give my money and support to the Capital Campaign. What we do here matters. And, guided by God's grace, the Capital Campaign will equip us to do it longer, better, more efficiently, safely and more effectively than ever before."

--Pastor Vicky Stifter

Unless we make the improvements, repairs and upgrades we have planned for (listed below) the ministry that all of us envision is at risk. Here are just a few of the problems we are addressing:

- We sometimes cannot hold service in the sanctuary because it is not cooled, and becomes excessively hot during the summer, a situation that is likely to worsen.
- The leaking roof (currently replaced through a loan) was weakening the entire structure, damaging ceilings and floors.
- Parking lot runoff (currently fixed through a loan) was damaging the foundation, including the pipe organ.
- Heating bills are very high because our system is old and inefficient, and wiring is no longer adequate for needs throughout the building.
- The carpet in the sanctuary and other areas is badly stained and worn.
- Outside signage is not adequate at informing members or passers-by of what is happening inside.
- The Riverview Room flooring (replaced through a loan) had not been changed since 1956 and was damaged by the leaking roof.

This is a pivotal time in our 133 year history. Will we thrive, attract new young families, be a light on the State St. hill, or will we face the unfortunate decline of so many churches today around the country?

Your gifts, large and small, will answer that question.  
Light the Way: it's ours to choose, ours to do.

*Growth: Creating the facility we need for our growing congregation.*

Year 1 Repairing and repaving Parking Lot	\$4,000
Year 1 Riverview Room floor and painting	\$7,000
Year 2 Riverview Room Exit and New Windows	\$95,000
Year 2 New Sanctuary Carpeting	\$35,000
Year 3 Electrical and plumbing upgrades	\$55,000
Year 3 Recarpeting office, Fireside Room, nursery	\$23,000
<b>TOTAL: \$219,000</b>	

*Safety: Ensuring our buildings are safe from weather, safe to enter and exit, and secure against break-ins.*

Year 1 Building code review and property survey	\$8,000
Year 1 Roof replacement	\$94,000
Year 1 Security system	\$1,000
Year 1 Emergency exit from Fireside Room	\$99,000
Year 2 Fire suppression and fire alarm	\$100,000
Year 2 Exterior doors	\$10,000
Year 2 Project management	\$20,000
Year 3 Exterior lighting	\$7,000
<b>TOTAL: \$339,000</b>	

*Welcome: What do people experience when they walk by, or step in? Does our facility make them feel at home and excited to be here?*

Year 1 Repair of interior lift/elevator	\$1,000
Year 1 Entryway stairs carpet	\$4,000
Year 2 Welcome and information signs	\$7,000
Year 2 Landscape irrigation	\$3,000
Year 3 Repointing stonework	\$18,000
Year 3 Stained-glass repair	\$18,000
Year 3 Exterior and interior painting	\$35,000
Year 3 Furniture	\$14,000
Year 3 New furnace and air conditioning	\$100,000
Year 3 Project Management	\$25,000
<b>TOTAL: \$225,000</b>	

**Campaign Costs: \$17,000**

**Total Project: \$800,000**