

Frequently Asked Questions



LIGHTING
THE WAY
Riverside's Capital Campaign

Q. How does the Lighting the Way Capital Campaign enhance the mission of Riverside Community Church?

A. As we worked together over many months to create a strategic plan for the church, we adopted a mission statement and two mission priorities. You can read about these at the Riverside web site. Just go to www.riversideucc.com, or scan the QR code at the end of this document. We agreed that 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.

Q. What is our campaign goal?

A. The capital campaign fundraising goal is \$800,000, to be collected over a three-year period.

Q. When is the campaign happening?

A. Official kick-off is January 28, 2024, and ends with a Celebration Sunday on April 28, 2024.

Q. When will I need to make my commitment?

A. Our goal is to receive letters of commitment from all supporters prior to the Campaign Celebration Service on April 28. Between January 28 and April 28, you will have ample opportunity to fill out a commitment sheet.

Q. Is a capital campaign commitment separate from our regular, annual pledge?

A. Yes, it is a separate campaign and does not affect your annual pledge. Typically, your campaign gifts will come from resources other than your personal annual budget. As with all donations to our church, your contribution to the capital campaign offers tax advantages. It is always a good idea to consult your tax accountant or financial planner for details on your personal situation.

Q. We want to make a substantial contribution to the capital campaign, but we don't have all the money this year. Can we spread out our contribution?

A. Absolutely! Even though the fundraising campaign concludes in April 2024, you can make your gift(s) over the next one, two or three years, starting at the date you specify.

Q. If the building needs so much work, why don't we just sell it and build elsewhere?

A. In our 2023 strategic planning process, which took more than six months, the congregation considered that possibility and reached consensus that the building is a ministry partner with us, and that we want to stay here, in the center of downtown Hood River. A vote was taken at a congregational meeting last winter in which a majority of the congregation voted to stay where we are. We also voted to proceed with a capital campaign.

Every building needs love and care. Riverside is no exception.

Q. How did you pick the projects in the Capital Campaign?

A. Nearly two years ago a team headed by engineer Charlie Warren spent months in a deep exploration of the entire Riverside campus, looking at the status of all systems, including heating, cooling, security, flooring and the roof. The result was the Capital Improvement Plan.

Q. Who will set priorities for which projects happen and when?

A. The Capital Improvement Plan detailed which projects were critically needed in the near term, and which ones could be completed in the next three years. The Building Committee, Board of Finance and Development and the Church Council are working together to review the projects and determine how to proceed with each one. If you would like to read a copy of the Capital Improvement plan, please request one from the church office.

Q. Who will make decisions about what does and doesn't happen if funds are short or projects are more expensive than anticipated?

A. The Building Committee will make recommendations to the Board of Finance and Development who will seek the approval of the Church Council for how to proceed, if funds fall short or projects exceed expected estimates.

Q. What is the status of each project and what is the timeline for completion of all projects?

A. You can find an updated list of all projects at Riverside's website, www.riversideucc.com. Just click on the "Capital Campaign" button on the home page, or scan the QR code at the end of this document.

Q. Who is responsible for making sure the projects are completed?

A. It is the responsibility of the Building Committee to see projects through to completion. They will employ project managers when necessary to ensure that the projects proceed on budget, and in a timely manner. Project managers will report to the Building Committee, which in turn reports progress or concerns to the Finance and Development Board and ultimately to Church Council.

Q. How will funds be administered?

A. Our Building Committee, in collaboration with the Finance and Development Board, Church Council and church administration, including our bookkeeper, will ensure that funds from the capital campaign are managed and used only for capital campaign projects.

Q. When and how will the congregation and donors receive updates on the status of the campaign?

A. The Capital Campaign Committee, in collaboration with the Church Council, will regularly provide project updates through the weekly Current newsletter and on Riverside's website. Also, monthly church council meetings are open to all, and you are always welcome to come and hear discussions of projects, or reports on progress.

Q. How much money has been raised to date?

A. We have been able to proceed with some of the most urgent needs, such as the roof replacement, through a loan from Riverside member Bill Light, which will be repaid by funds raised in

the capital campaign. In addition, early givers to the capital campaign have already committed \$150,000 in gifts, as of mid-January 2024.

Q. Can only Riversiders donate to the capital campaign?

A. No! Anyone is welcome and encouraged to donate to Riverside's Lighting the Way Capital Campaign. Because Riverside is so well loved in the broader community, we hope to generate significant interest and support beyond our congregation, and you can help! If you have friends, family members, neighbors, coworkers, or anyone in your circle who might like to contribute, please take and share the printed materials in the back of the church, or visit the Capital Campaign page at the website, www.riversideucc.com, or scan the QR code at the end of this document.

If you would like more support to approach potential donors, or if you would like a member of the Campaign Executive Team to reach out on your behalf, please contact Joellen Bingener at 503-367-4727 or lightingthewayriversideucc@gmail.com.

Q. What if my situation changes and I can't complete my Capital Campaign pledge?

A. We know that circumstances can change. If you are concerned about completing your gift, please contact Kathryn Murray in the church office.

Q. How can I support the Lighting the Way Capital Campaign?

A. We will be having small group sessions or one-to-one conversations with all members and possible potential donors over the next four months to talk about what giving means to your faith and how your faith impacts your giving. These are also opportunities to get answers to questions you may have about the Campaign and its projects. Please come, share your questions and enthusiasm with other Riversiders. And please make a gift to the Lighting the Way Capital Campaign. Gifts both small and large are greatly appreciated.

Q. Can gifts given to the campaign be used for anything else?

A. No. Funds can only be used for capital projects either outlined in the brochure or that emerge as projects are completed, that will enhance the use of the Riverside building and insure its continuing life for generations to come.

Q. What will happen if funds given to the campaign exceed our goal of \$800,000?

A. That would be a wonderful outcome! Funds remaining upon completion of the campaign will be held in a dedicated account to be used only for future capital projects that will insure the continued use of Riverside, with approval of the Church Council.

Q. I've heard something about a balcony project in the Riverview Room. What is that?

A. About three years ago, we began discussions about ways to make the Riverview Room more attractive and usable for events. The Church Council approved the inclusion of a balcony project of some type in the capital campaign project list, but we are still determining the scope and feasibility of that project. We are working with an architect to design it, and hope to have drawings and cost estimates by Fall 2024. There is \$95,000 in the capital campaign budget for improvements to the Riverview Room.

Q. Could I get more information on one of the planned campaign projects?

A. Of course. Please let one of the campaign team members (listed below) know and we will be happy to provide you with more information.

Q. Who is working on the Lighting the Way Capital Campaign?

A. The Campaign Executive Team Members are:

Campaign Administrator Gean Rains

Moderator Doug Roof

Joellen Bingener, Giving Potential and Lead Gifts

Judith Mohar, Administrative Support and Commitment Opportunities

Kathy Watson, Printed and Digital Materials and Publicity

Karen Roof, Group Meetings and Hospitality

Betty Shalhope, Group Meetings and Hospitality

Kathryn Murray, Recording and Follow-Up

Judy Schock, Recording

Tim Foley, Recording

Pastor Vicky Stifter

To visit the Capital Campaign Page at the Riverside web site, just scan:

