



January 17, 2018

Dear Church Family,

Called Forward is a theme you will hear a lot about this winter. It's the name of a financial campaign which is about to launch for FCCGE. It encompasses our Annual Fund, which covers operating expenses and mission contributions, and a Capital Campaign which will cover needed repairs to the building and updates to the facility to better support outreach to the community. Over the next six Sundays, you'll learn more about these important projects, along with our plans to grow our mission giving.

Through a deliberate and thorough needs assessment, approximately \$2 million in critical repair, replacement, and maintenance needs have been identified. The goal of this campaign is to create a Building Reserve fund to address these needs over time. Building maintenance and repairs could then be moved out of our annual operating budget, enabling that budget to be focused on supporting day-to-day operating expenses, including our many important ministries, and contributions to external missions. Any increase received in the Annual Fund as a result of this campaign will go directly to missions.

The Capital Campaign projects will support:

- **Mission and Service**, by creating a more welcoming space in Pilgrim Hall for the homeless guests we serve each week through PADS, including renovated showers, laundry facilities and storage.
- **Hospitality and Welcome**, by improving entryways for visitors, adding needed signage, and upgrading our gathering spaces.
- **Worship and Music**, through audio/visual and other improvements in the Sanctuary.

One of our members has generously stepped forward with a challenge gift of \$50,000 to encourage us in our efforts. You'll hear more details about this challenge in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, please mark your calendars for an important *Called Forward* special event on February 22 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Morton Arboretum. There you'll hear more details about the campaign, have a chance to ask questions, and enjoy an evening of fellowship in a beautiful setting.

We are also preparing a special gift – a Generosity Story Book - containing testimonial stories by members of our own congregation. This book will be distributed on January 28.

Please pray for this effort to care for our beloved church, expand our outreach and welcome to the community, and the blessing we will all receive in accomplishing this important work together.

In Christ's Peace,

Reverend Seth Carey
Senior Minister

Sylvia Rodee
Campaign Co-Chair

David Mook
Campaign Co-Chair