



United
WITH *faith*



First Congregational United Church of Christ
LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN + CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

2007





First Congregational UCC is a Christian congregation that tends to the spiritual growth of its members and reaches out to the community in Christian love.

-Vision Statement, 2004

Guided by this vision, our congregation lives out its mission in today's world.

We believe God is calling us to develop this vision – to embrace the opportunities for Christian discipleship today.

Responding to God's call, we are United With Faith!

Over the next three years, we will contribute \$800,000 so we can:

- care for our **building and grounds**
- enrich our **congregational life**
- engage in **ministry for others**

We're excited about the expanded ministries your gifts will make possible.

As we are United With Faith, we look forward to your participation. Your contribution will impact lives today and for years to come!

Blessings,

John Hamilton
John Hamilton
Co-Chair

Jill Schuller
Jill Schuller
Co-Chair

John Richards
John Richards
Moderator

Joan Sulser
Joan Sulser
Senior Minister

United With Faith Appeal Goals

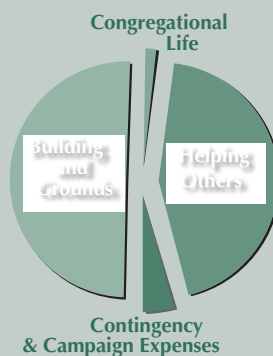
Your financial gifts will help First Congregational United Church of Christ renew our facility and provide needed outreach ministries in our community and conference. Our United With Faith capital campaign goal is to raise \$800,000 in cash and three-year financial commitments. Pledge commitments will be made through 4/07 with collection of pledges occurring from 5/07 through 4/30/10. Construction is slated to start in 2008.

Building and Grounds Improvements
Elevator/Lower Level Remodeling – \$300,000
Parking Lot - \$100,000

Congregational Life
Organ Update – \$16,000

Helping Others
Conference Pledge – \$225,000
(includes prior pledge commitment)
Habitat House – \$90,000

Contingency & Campaign Expenses – \$69,000



These figures represent estimated expenditures available at the time this chart was prepared. Actual dollar allocations may fluctuate among these projects.

Gifts to the campaign are tax deductible to the full extent provided by law. Gifts of securities, stocks, bonds, real estate, and certain other property will be accepted in the campaign. Because of constant changes in tax laws, donors may want to consult with their own tax advisor.



United With Faith

For over 150 years, First Congregational United Church of Christ has symbolized a united community of faith. As we build on our strong foundation, we need to unite in planning for our future. We can do it with your help!

Building and Grounds Improvements

Undeniably one of the most ambitious aspects of our capital campaign is the addition of an elevator and the extensive remodeling of the lower level of our church. As an open and accepting congregation, it's important to live our mission by providing accessibility to both floors of our building—especially to those who may be physically challenged, parents with toddlers and strollers, or those with other special needs.

Construction of an elevator provides us with the opportunity to re-think the layout and future use of space in our lower level. Key components of our planned updates include:

- Renovate the nursery, multi-purpose room (Scout Room), trustee room, lower level kitchen, and storage areas to maximize their functional use.
- Remove potentially hazardous asbestos floor and ceiling tiles in the entire lower level.
- Improve both natural and artificial lighting.

Need for improvement is evident outside the church as well—we have a parking lot that needs resealing and refining to make it more welcoming, safer, and more efficient.

While these building construction plans and grounds improvements represent the largest expected expenditures of our United With Faith campaign, they will also be among the most visible on a daily basis. As we continue to grow and serve as a congregation, these improvements will provide access for all, and turn our lower level interior space into a warm and receptive area for all who do the Lord's work there every day!



Congregational Life

Music is an uplifting bond that unites young and old and fosters spiritual growth. The church's beautiful pipe organ has served our congregation for many decades, and will continue to do so if we keep it in excellent working condition. Although minor repairs and adjustments have been made as needed, the organ builder recommends performing two major technology and electrical improvements:

- Replace existing combination action switches in the top of organ console with new solid-state improved system, increasing the organs capacity and usefulness from present single memory to 32 channels.
- Repair and maintain electrical and mechanical functions that have worn out during the past 30 years since installation.

Helping Others

A core component of our church mission is to reach out to the community in Christian love. One way we can put our faith into action is through support of Habitat for Humanity of the La Crosse Area.

Habitat's ministry is based on the conviction that to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ we must reflect Christ's love in our own lives by loving and caring for one another. Our love must not be words only—it must be true love, which shows itself in action. Habitat provides an opportunity for people to put their faith and love into action, bringing diverse groups of people together to make affordable housing and better communities a reality for everyone.

Another important part of United With Faith is our financial commitment to the Wisconsin Conference UCC. Honoring our pledge for their Forward in Faith campaign launched in 1999 and anticipating a campaign within the next several years, we join with other branches of the Christ vine and transform lives. Jesus Christ said, "I am the vine, you are the branches." Through Christ, we are connected to Christians throughout Wisconsin and throughout the world. Together, we share the good news of God's love and care for God's people.

United With Faith Leadership Team

Campaign Co-Chairs:

John Hamilton
Jill Schuller

Special Events Co-Chairs

Julie Nelson
Jeff Wisner

Pacesetter Co-Chairs

Mary Lou Furan
Rick Waniger

Communications Co-Chairs

Gina Gerrard
Ellen Finch
Dave Ring

Moderator ex officio

John Richards

Senior Minister ex officio

Joan Sulser

Administrative Assistant

Ginny Iverson

Case Experts

Carlene Roberts
– Habitat for Humanity House

Martha Balfany
– Organ Update

Lori Terry and Mark Glendenning
– Parking Lot

Chris Colbert
– Elevator & Lower Level Update

Joan Sulser
– UCC Pledge



First Congregational Church United Church of Christ

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“Music plays a vital role in our congregation's worship experience. Our wonderful Hendrickson organ, which has already served our congregation for many decades, will continue to serve us far into the future if we invest in needed upgrades and improvements.” —Martha Balfany

“As parents with Sunday School-aged children, we feel it is essential to offer the best learning and growing environment for our children and all the wonderful children of our church. The basement corridor requires updating, so that all generations of children can learn about God in a healthy surrounding. We are all blessed in many ways and supporting this project is a small way to love God back.” —Mike and Jill Blokhuis

“Don't we all appreciate safe and well-maintained parking spaces and facilities? Think of the proud feeling you will have knowing you helped to support the safety and well-being of our congregation and community members who use our parking lot on a regular basis to attend church, nursery school and other events.” —Lori Terry

“My family now has a new sense of security as we face the future, knowing we have a safe and private place where we can put down roots and thrive without all the burdens we faced before. It has given us hope! Being a Habitat Homeowner has been one of the best experiences of my life, because it has truly been a hand up, not a hand out.”
—Anonymous Coulee Region Habitat homeowner

