



Capital Needs Vision Statement

Our History

The First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach was founded on October 18, 1925, with initial services held in various buildings in Delray Beach. On October 21, 1928, only five weeks after a historically destructive hurricane, the new congregation held its first service on this campus in what is now our Fellowship Hall facing Bronson Avenue. The rent was \$30 a month for one year. In the fall of 1929, the property was purchased for \$19,000 and a dedication service held October 20th.

In 1977, the present Sanctuary facing Gleason Street was completed.

In 1985 a Memorial Garden was added for those wishing to be interred on the church campus.

In 1999 the Fellowship Hall, known for the beauty and historical significance of its Spanish-Italian mission architecture, was thoroughly restored and added to the State Register of Historic Places.

In 2012, we dedicated the 4,000 square foot Holly House on an out parcel of property. This enhanced a wonderful ministry which adds great value to our community of faith.

Our Mission

Today our campus is more than merely a place for Sunday worship; it is an important discipleship tool. The beautiful cathedrals dotting the landscape around the world were meant to be theological statements to a world that did not know Jesus Christ. Through their sheer size, architectural beauty and lovely landscaping, church leaders sought to make clear the majesty and presence of a great God in the midst of a broken world. Through compelling and beautiful worship, these cathedrals announced the love of God and invited people to place their trust in God's care. Just as important, the church campus was seen as an extension of the vision of making disciples. It was understood that for maximum impact in the community, buildings must be inviting, accessible, functional and comfortable. But the mission was clear – to reach as effectively as possible the local community for Jesus Christ.

In the past three years First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach has welcomed nearly 200 new members and has seen considerably more people in attendance for services of worship and church functions. Our present facilities have become inadequate to advance our mission of reaching increasingly more people for Christ. During "high season" of January, February and March, worship seating is a challenge. On three recent occasions, participation in a church dinner and a spiritual formation program exceeded the capacity of the Fellowship Hall, resulting in tables

flowing outdoors into the Memorial Garden. At Easter 2015, parking was more than difficult and some people were turned away.

Elevation issues on our campus have made accessibility difficult for many. Parking and restroom facilities are now strained by the large numbers of people attracted to our ministries. Our Mission Statement is, *“To lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and participation in God’s mission of hope in the community and the world.”* Simply, our present facilities present the greatest obstacle for moving our mission forward in an effective and compelling manner.

Our Vision/Our Dream

Easter morning 2015, a couple spoke to our pastor following the first service. They said they had lived “down the street” for years and had never worshipped with us before that morning. They continued by saying that though they had not worshipped before they were always grateful that the church was here. Politely and carefully, he asked, “Why?” “Why were they grateful that the church was here?” Their answer, “Each day it reminds us that there is something more.” They promised to return and then proceeded to walk down the street – presumably to their home.

The vision your leaders have for this church could not be stated more elegantly, “To be something more” in a community that will see considerable commercial and residential development in the next three years. Atlantic Crossing, Uptown Delray, Midtown Delray, I-Pic Theater and the South of Atlantic Residential Development will each significantly impact downtown Delray Beach. Our campaign to raise the resources to expand and improve our campus will – like the cathedrals built years ago – communicate powerfully to this community that there is “something more.”

Practically, that “something more” will be advanced by increased seating in our Sanctuary, increased restroom facilities, increased availability of parking, consolidation of all staff offices in one place, and accessible and functional meeting space for teaching and equipping ministries. In addition, additional facilities for our youth, including an indoor recreation facility that can also serve as a gathering place for larger church social events, are being considered. Lastly, attention will be given to beautiful landscaping that will increase the visibility and attractiveness of our church campus. All of this is to serve the vision of our church, *“To build a church where people grow in Jesus Christ.”*

Ultimately, we are called to participate in “aiding and abetting” God’s work in Delray Beach. The development of our area in the next three years will bring increased numbers of people calling this place home, an increase of employment and an increase in the number of people vacationing here. Addressing these facility needs allows us to embrace the future of Delray Beach with the “something more” of God’s promises.

Our Plan

An extensive study by church leaders has revealed the following current and future facility needs:

- Removing aging houses and apartments on out parcels
- Organizing administrative offices into a common area for a more efficient work environment

- Expanding and developing brighter, more inviting spaces for children and youth
- Expanding choir room and bell choir space
- Creating larger and better designed meeting spaces for classes, activities, dinners, events
- Addressing parking configurations and elevation challenges on our campus
- Addressing accessibility and entry issues in all facilities
- Enlarging sanctuary restrooms
- Increasing narthex size and enhancing access to the sanctuary
- Expanding the sanctuary by adding a balcony

While we would like to address all these issues at the same time, because of their costs we have ranked them into three critical phases of development.

Phase 1

In our evaluations with architects and builders, we determined it would cost almost as much to bring the 1962 Christian Education building (13,000 square feet) up to current building and accessibility codes as to construct a new, much larger, and better functioning building in this same location.

So we propose demolishing the existing Christian Education building, replacing it with a new 30,000 square feet, two-story multi-purpose facility. This structure would provide new classrooms for adult and children ministries, offices for pastors and administrative staff, a larger media area and meeting space for events. This space would be connected to an adjacent auditorium. The auditorium with kitchen space would serve multiple uses, including youth activities, adult activities, recreation, musical and special events activities, dinners, special programs and community events.

During the construction phase of approximately one year, current activities would be housed in the Christian Learning Center, youth house, and other existing out parcel buildings.

Projected Costs: \$5.2 to \$6.6 million

Phase 2

Once the new multipurpose building is complete, we would demolish all of the old houses and apartment buildings as well as the Christian Learning Center–Youth House in order to address critical parking needs and elevation issues. In addition to increased parking, we will improve ingress and egress, vehicle access to drop off areas, landscaping and irrigation while adding barrier walls, walkways and porches.

Projected Costs: \$1.5 to \$2.0 million

Phase 3

The final phase will include expanding the narthex, adding a balcony in the sanctuary, expanding restrooms, adding a welcome center, and installing an elevator.

Project Costs: \$1.6 to \$2.0 Million

Next Steps

We are partnering with Hewett Consulting, a national research and capital stewardship firm, to assist in assessing the feasibility of these projects. You are asked to participate in this comprehensive study by completing the enclosed confidential questionnaire, which will be returned directly to their offices in Charlotte, NC.

Responses will be compiled by Hewett Consulting and reported to congregational leaders in June. Your responses will help determine our next steps.