

A Letter from Pastor Bryan

As your pastor, I am always seeking ways that our congregation can make an impact on our community and world. In a time when many people hunger for authentic community, I believe a vibrant faith family is the best way to foster strong relationships with the Lord, and one another. *Answering Our Call Of The Lord* is an opportunity for our faith family to come together to transform our ways of doing ministry to reach new disciples of Jesus Christ and grow our community outreach for future generations. Through our sacrificial gifts we hope to: retire our remaining debt of just over a million dollars, restore our deteriorating bell tower, reach new disciples by allocating funds to start a multisite ministry and respond to a global health need by offering a tithe to United Methodist hospitals in Sierra Leone.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Bryan

What can you do to *Answer Our Call Of The Lord?*

Pray

In the weeks to come, everyone will be asked to pray for guidance, seeking God's will during this important time in our church.

- Discover what God has planned for you and your church family for this campaign
- Reflect on campaign prayer, "Lord, what do You want to do through me?"

Praise

- Praise God for the endless blessings given to Church of the Lakes
- Thank God for future opportunities He will bring; and the lives that will be touched as a result of this campaign

Plan

The campaign team is prayerfully planning the future of our church.

- Plan to be involved by joining the special events that are designed to provide information and celebrate this campaign
- Plan to be part of the future God has intended for Church of the Lakes

Grounded in Gratitude

This campaign is not all about "asking and giving". It is about reflectively examining our faith, putting our trust in The Lord and thanking Him for all of our blessings.

- God sacrificed his only Son for us; truly an unselfish gift given to all
- Respond to God with the same generosity He has given you
- Regardless of your share, all will have the same equal sacrifice

What is involved with this Capital Campaign?

This spring, we will share our vision through worship, small groups and other communications which will help the congregation understand our unique needs. We will then ask each person to make a pledge above and beyond their regular giving to provide funds towards this Capital Campaign.

Worship Service Emphasis

April 8th

Gratitude Sunday

Expressing gratitude to God for the blessing of our church family.

April 15th

Ministry Sunday

Celebrating the life-changing ministries of the church.

April 29th

Celebration Sunday

Generating enthusiasm for what God will do with our congregation.

May 6th

Commitment Sunday

Gathering to offer our three-year commitments to support the vision of this campaign.



Church of the Lakes

5944 Fulton Dr NW
Canton, OH 44718
330-499-8972

www.churchofthelakes.org

Answering Our Call Of The Lord

CHERISH OUR BUILDING
ONE CHURCH, MULTIPLE LOCATIONS
TITHE TO WORLD MISSIONS
LOAN RETIREMENT

Therefore, brothers and sisters, be eager to confirm your call and election. Do this and you will never ever be lost. In this way you will receive a rich welcome into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

Peter 1:10-11



www.churchofthelakes.org/capitalcampaign

What is our *Call*?

Church of the Lakes is embarking on a bold endeavor to increase our impact for Christ in our community and update our facilities.

We are calling our initiative *Answering Our Call Of The Lord* which is a plan to increase our ministry and mission by addressing four key areas that need financial support totaling \$1,500,000 over three years.

Using the acrostic **COTL** for Church of the Lakes, each area is identified and described below. They are not listed in order of priority or financial need, but simply arranged to form the acrostic **COTL** as an aid to remember the projects involved in this campaign.

CHERISH OUR BUILDING

Our Church is more than a building, it is our treasured gift! In order to preserve it as such, we must attend to the pressing needs of our facility that require attention.

Including, but not limited to:

- Repairing structural damage to the bell tower, a symbol of our Church
- Replacing at least four 20-year old HVAC units
- Refurbishing original pews from 1964
- Repainting the entire interior of the building

Estimated costs are approximately \$200,000



ONE CHURCH, MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

We live in a world where the fastest growing religious identifications are the “nones”. Young adults are more disconnected from faith families than ever before. Experiences from vital congregations demonstrate that the establishment of new faith communities that are intimate, missional and intentional is the most effective way to reach young people. The growth of our Oasis service is an indication of how a new faith community makes disciples for Jesus. The campus ministry approach allows for the advantages of a centralized office and infrastructure while having more intimate places where people can worship and grow as a community. The East Ohio Annual Conference has provided the commitment of matching dollars for this vision. This new outreach requires seed money to renovate structures, and provide the proper AV systems.

The multisite plan involves:

- One unified Church of the Lakes, meeting in multiple geographical locations via satellite campuses, utilizing rented or re-purposed facilities
- One budget and organizational structure
- One vision, under the leadership and experience of our Pastoral staff
- One sermon series and small group curriculum
- More members in our faith family

Intend to raise \$100,000 - matched by the East Ohio Conference

TITHE TO WORLD MISSIONS

In light of the Biblical practice of setting aside the first fruits of a tithe (10%) we desire to send this money to Sierra Leone, who we have been partnered with for years, in support of health initiatives. Through this tithe, we will be able to help God’s Kingdom in Sierra Leone and live out our mission to be Christ’s Light for All.

- Make a difference for the families suffering from the effects of diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, and Ebola
- Funds will be directed to provide for hospitals in the Bo and Freetown regions of this West African country
- Contribute to the United Methodist Church goal to reach 1 million children with lifesaving/health promoting measures by 2020

Tithe of \$150,000 if we reach our fund raising goal



LOAN RETIREMENT

By retiring our present debt of slightly more than a million dollars, we can allocate the \$124,000 a year for debt service to expand our local missions and ministries.

- Debt was incurred from two past capital projects – (1999) constructing activity center, entryway, choir room and prayer chapel and (2009) expanding the sanctuary and educational wing, and adding the elevator
- Capital raised only covered 60%; financed \$1,579,087
- Annually allocate \$124,000; of which \$50,000 is interest
- As of December 31, 2017, we still owed \$1,068,099

Need approximately \$1,050,000 to retire this loan

