



Cultivate

Faith • Hope • Love



And now, faith, hope, and love
abide, these three; and the greatest
of these is love.

— 1 Corinthians 13:13

Other seed fell into good soil and
brought forth grain, growing up
and increasing and yielding thirty
and sixty and a hundredfold.

— Mark 4:8






We believe the church is the hope of the world today – an embodiment of God’s love for all creation. For almost a century, Myers Park Presbyterian Church has worked to cultivate space for all God’s children to grow and flourish in faith. As we approach our second century in ministry, where is God calling us to go? How is God calling us to lead?

Great things are growing in our church community. God continues to bless us with young families joining our congregation. Over 1,000 children have been baptized since our last capital campaign. We have 1,647 children who are growing in faith through our ministry right now. Our largest demographic are 25-40 year olds and their children. How will we cultivate their faith and share our abundance of God’s love with the next generation?

Joe Clifford
Pastor

An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood, likely in Charlotte, North Carolina. The image shows a dense grid of houses with various roof colors (red, grey, brown) interspersed with lush green trees. A network of streets and a railway line are visible, creating a structured urban layout. The lighting suggests a sunny day, with shadows cast by the trees and buildings.

While some seeds thrive, others struggle. Not all God's children have access to the blessings of our community. It is incredibly challenging for a child living in poverty in Charlotte to escape that poverty. Family stability is severely impacted by inadequate affordable housing. Achievement disparities define the education landscape due to opportunity gaps for children living in poverty.

How does Christ call us to respond?

The Cultivate Capital Campaign is about nurturing a new generation of disciples to grow a deep, abiding faith in Jesus Christ. It's about sowing seeds of hope that all might experience the abundance of God's beloved community. It is about much more than new classrooms or heating and air conditioning systems – it is about building on our foundation.



Sow Faith

Expand our capacity to provide for the spiritual formation of our children.

By sowing faith in them today, tomorrow will bring an abundant harvest for God –
30, 60, 100 fold!



Root Hope

Embody God's presence and grace in the world. Hope doesn't just change individual lives, it advances the common good so that all can thrive.



Reap Love

Serving our neighbors with love and compassion cultivates a harvest of righteousness beyond imagination.

This campaign is an exercise in sacrificial giving; a stretch beyond our regular offerings to cultivate our faith and harvest a better future for our ministry in Charlotte and around the world. It's an opportunity to consider how you can commit to living out God's love in life changing ways.



How will you help sow faith, root hope, and reap love?

Our Vision for the Future

Tilling the soil for a bountiful harvest

It is difficult to talk about the future of the church without first acknowledging our past. Since our founding, we have had five capital campaigns that were each implemented to address our congregation's evolving needs of faithfully responding to Christ's call at that time. In response to the rapidly changing world around us, it is now time for MPPC to embark on our next journey together in order to grow disciples, repair and revitalize our buildings, and serve our neighbors and world with love and compassion.



In order to fulfill our mission, we must be sure our house is in order. The foundational campus that we have been blessed with needs some care in order for us to respond effectively to our call. For the last several years, leaders and other members of MPPC have met to explore, discern, and prepare for the future of the church. Thanks to strong leadership, the conversation moved beyond the immediate repair needs to thinking strategically about the impact we can make through sharing God's love.

In the pages that follow, you will learn about the fruits of those conversations. Together, by God's grace, we will sow faith, root hope, and reap love for generations to come.







Campus Revitalization for Ministry

PHOTOS: Weekday School classrooms in the mid 1950s and in 2020



LEFT: A security-controlled building connector linking the C and D children's education buildings.



LEFT: Exterior and driveway improvements to facilitate efficient and secure drop-off.



RIGHT: Accessible routing allows for the full utilization of both buildings to accommodate our growing children's ministry.



Children's Ministry

Campus Revitalization for Ministry

Our children's ministry is thriving and MPPC is in a unique position with a growing membership of young families. We have the privilege of teaching our youngest members the importance of God at the center of their life and building the foundation of their faith.

The children's education buildings (C and D) are the most heavily used spaces in the church as they are occupied by the full and half-day Weekday School program, as well as Sunday School classes. Renovations to expand access and to meet the growing demand among young families in our congregation is critical. The buildings have not been fully renovated in over 60 years and we need to invest in the space in which our children's faith is formed.

Now it is time to honor our baptismal vows and sustain the commitment to our children: those

here today and those of future generations. The children under our spiritual care are our hope for tomorrow. Revitalized facilities allow us to dream about ways to innovate ministry to further God's work in our city.

Here are the campus improvements we hope to provide for the safety and benefit of the children of our community.

- ◆ A connector for the C and D buildings which would create security-controlled interior access between buildings on all levels for weekday and Sunday use.
- ◆ Renovations that would allow full day enrollment to more than double to meet the high demand and growing need of dual working families in our community.
- ◆ Crucial repairs to update mechanical, electrical, HVAC, and plumbing systems.

*Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture these children,
by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Christ
and to be faithful members of his church?*

– PC(USA) Book of Common Worship

CROSS Missions

Campus Revitalization for Ministry

CROSS (Charlotte Regional Outreach, Spirituality, and Study) is the church's urban outreach ministry. Over the past 20 years, more than 10,000 people from 270 churches, colleges, and schools in 19 states have served through CROSS Missions.

CROSS combines worship, reflection and serving in the community. Through Christ, participants are transformed, returning to their home ready to meet the needs of their community.

A critical component of the CROSS program is housing interns in the Cornerstone House (on the MPPC campus) so they may live in an intentional Christian community.

The building needs critical repairs to ensure the safety of the interns and other visiting guests. As a teaching church, CROSS is an essential ministry as we grow and develop disciples. By bringing the building up to code and providing essential updates we are enhancing our commitment to be a teaching church. A safer and rejuvenated space will also allow for additional usage by our youth and visiting partners.



Columbarium

The Columbarium provides a final resting place and a prayerful environment that serves the needs and desires of our members. This area must be expanded to accommodate already reserved space and to provide for future growth.





LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

BALEAF

Mission & Outreach

Built on a foundation of trust and impact from the last campaign, we remain focused on partnerships around the theme “Love Builds Up.” The capital campaign will allow us to live out God’s love by strategically expanding our reach in Grier Heights, in Charlotte, and the world by serving others in measurable and meaningful ways.

During the pandemic, MPPC responded with love, compassion, and significant resources to address food shortages, housing needs, and educational achievement gaps that became greater due to the effects of COVID-19. We know that these needs will continue long after COVID has passed, and we are inspired and grounded in Jesus’ teachings to share our abundant blessings to enrich the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors.



In response to one of the most critical local needs, we will establish a housing fund to acquire and develop affordable housing projects in collaboration with trusted partners such as CrossRoads, Habitat for Humanity, and Charlotte Mecklenburg Housing Partnership. This innovative mission to expand access to affordable housing is essential to combat chronic homelessness in Charlotte.

These recommendations, as developed by the Campaign Planning Team, will be given to the Outreach Funding Team for consideration in determining final funding recipients.

Mission & Outreach

Education Initiatives

The Cornerstone of Systemic Change

● The Learning Collaborative (TLC)

Located in the Grier Heights community, TLC prepares underserved children and their families for success in school by providing a tuition-free, high quality early childhood education that inspires confidence and hope in each child.

● CrossRoads Corporation

Founded by Myers Park Presbyterian Church in 2008, CrossRoads maintains a strong commitment to the youth of Grier Heights by providing a breadth of academic enrichment support through partnerships with Billingsville-Cotswold Elementary School, YWCA, Communities in Schools, and Freedom School Partners.

- ▶ Billingsville Cotswold Elementary (BCE) Academic Coach (formerly New Teacher Mentor) — Supports teachers in their first to third years as educators, serves as a community liaison and a case manager to students and families in need.
- ▶ YWCA Youth Learning Center at BCE — Provides after school and full day summer program for K-5th grade students with a focus on literacy as the basis for academic achievement and family support, a key component to supporting academic engagement.
- ▶ Communities In Schools (CIS) Coordinator — Creates access and pathways to success for students through targeted intervention services, community resources and a caring adult relationship, which results in fewer absences and suspensions, and improved academic performance.
- ▶ Freedom School Partners — Promotes the long-term success of children by preventing summer learning loss through igniting a passion for reading and inspiring a love of learning.

Mission Outreach

Affordable Housing Opportunities

- **Habitat for Humanity of the Charlotte Region** – Seeking to put God’s love into action, by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope. Within the Grier Heights neighborhood, Habitat assists in revitalization efforts by providing housing solutions and critical home repairs. The provision of affordable housing is critical in advancing a more just society.
- **Roof Above** – Continued support of temporary shelter and permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless neighbors in Charlotte, which thereby increases the positive number of exits into housing and decreases the return rate to homelessness. Mecklenburg County reports there are now nearly 3,700 people experiencing homelessness in the county, Roof Above expects that number to grow with the economic impact related to COVID-19, and the ongoing lack of affordable housing in the city.
- **Crisis Assistance Ministry** – Provides critical short term support to keep families stably housed, to meet life’s basic needs. As the County’s Lead Agency for emergency rent and financial assistance, CAM provides comprehensive eviction prevention aid coupled with counseling, always delivered with dignity and respect. The COVID-19 crisis has increased demand exponentially and continued support is needed to avoid utility disconnection, eviction, and ultimately, keep a safe place to call home amid this pandemic.
- **CrossRoads Corporation** – Through housing initiatives and land acquisition, CrossRoads Corporation is removing barriers with down payment assistance programs, increasing homeownership, creating more mixed-income housing, and giving long-term renters an opportunity to stay in the community they call home.



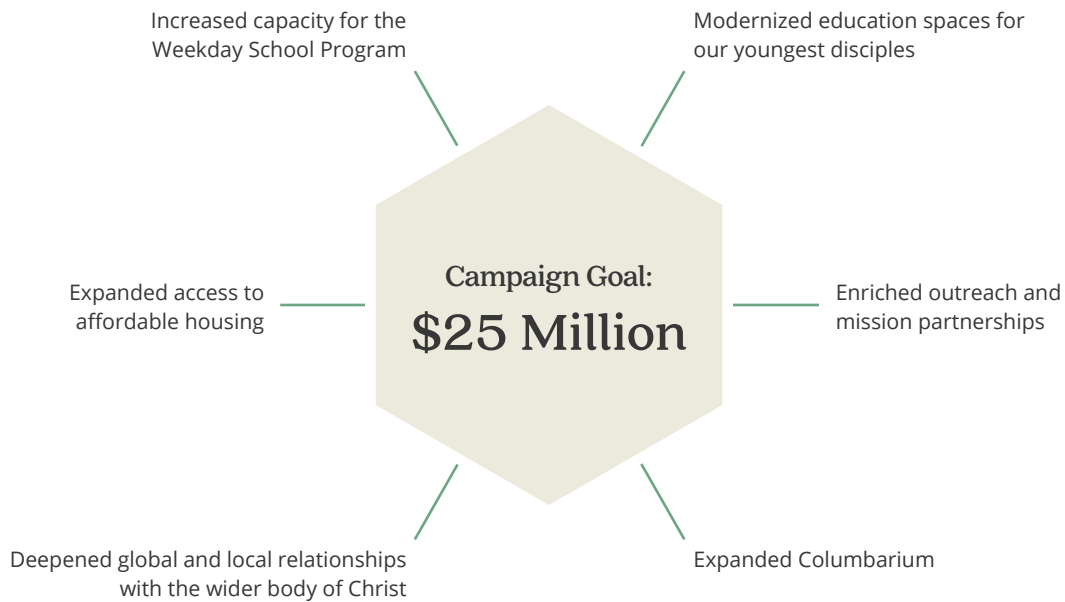
Mission & Outreach

Global Partners

- **El Salvador: Habitat for Humanity** – A holistic community development project that includes housing solutions, education initiatives, and support for the Casa de Salud medical center in Ahuachapan, El Salvador.
- **Congo: Les Mages Girls' School** – Les Mages creates a unique learning experience in a Christian environment for girls in Mbuji Mayi, Congo. Supporting construction and the sustainability of Les Mages will encourage female leadership in the church, community, and nation.
- **Uganda: The Bududa Learning Center (BLC)** – BLC operates a vocational school and an orphan support program. Such programs are strengthening the Bududa community by providing a safe environment for children to have access to quality education and nutritional support.
- **Cuba: The Independent Presbyterian Reformed Church of Cuba** – Support faith formation and outreach ministries, including a collaborative project to assist in the development of the Evangelical Seminary of Theology's Havana campus to prepare future pastors and lay leaders for the growing Independent Presbyterian Reformed Churches of Cuba.



Expected



outcomes



Hear the call to cultivate new seeds in our community.

Dear Friends,

God is continuing to move in our lives and the life of our church, delighting and surprising us with ways we can enhance the mission and ministry of Myers Park Presbyterian. The Cultivate Campaign is an opportunity for renewed imagination of the next chapter of our church.

Investing in the revitalization and improvement of the children's buildings and Cornerstone is critical to meet the current and future needs of our vibrant and growing church. Encouraging a strong spiritual foundation for young disciples is of the utmost importance.

From the very beginning, our church identity has been mission-focused. Supporting our local and global ministry partners is an annual, sustained investment, yet every so often, we have an opportunity to do more. The rapidly changing needs in Grier Heights, Charlotte, and the world have given us a renewed vision of what God is leading us to do to address the food and housing insecurities and education gaps. This capital campaign will expand our ability to serve our neighbors with love and compassion as Jesus calls us to do.

Our church is built on the many blessings from previous generations and the time has come for us to join together to cultivate faith, hope, and love for a new generation. Please prayerfully consider how you will join us in contributing to the Cultivate Campaign. We hope that God will use this campaign to unite our congregation in measurable ways so that we can sow faith, root hope, and reap love for our church, our city, and our world.

Betsy Fleming
Campaign Co-Chair

Ernie Reigel
Campaign Co-Chair



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Join us in prayer and generous support for the Cultivate Campaign.

With the improvements to our campus and the commitment to furthering our support of local and global outreach partners, we will continue to provide a spiritual home where all members can sow faith, root hope, and reap love.

Next Steps:

- **Pray.** Take a moment with God to pray for the success of the campaign and ask God to guide you in your involvement.
- **Give.** Consider what your sacrificial three-year financial commitment will look like for this capital campaign. This gift is over and above the amount you already give to support the church ministry, mission, and operations.
- **Serve.** How would God put your gifts to use during this time? Prayerfully consider serving our neighbors in need with love and compassion.



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