

# Debt Retirement Campaign Committee Report

September 30, 2018

At our Association Annual Meeting last year the Messengers from our Association churches voted to appoint a special committee to lead and conduct a campaign to retire the remaining \$450,000 debt on the Association's building as soon as feasible. No doubt this is a God-size task, but something greatly needed. Paying off our debt will save tens of thousands of dollars in interest as well as free up significant budget funds that can be used to better reach the lost of Franklin County and beyond by funding ministries to help strengthen existing churches and planting new churches.

Our Debt Retirement Committee met many times over the last year to study and assess the challenges of quickly raising this large amount of funds and to develop what we believe to be the best means to help reach our debt free goal. We concluded raising this amount of money can be best achieved in a concentrated, sharply focused effort to engage all our churches to reach this goal. We believe by God's grace these funds can be raised in the next two years, if all Association member churches, as well as concerned individuals, will partner with one another in short-term sacrificial giving to meet this challenge.

Barring unforeseen circumstances, ALL monies received for this campaign will be applied directly to loan principal, not interest. Interest will be paid through the association budget. Funds pledged and given for this special debt campaign should be over and above current association "missions budget" giving, not in place of it. We still must fund our association operating budget.

We understand each church has its own financial needs and abilities to give, so our Campaign efforts are not intended to coerce or force any church or individual to participate at a certain level. Our desire is that we will all give freely, generously and according to our ability (II Corinthians 8:3). Certainly we desire everyone to give cheerfully as the Lord leads, out of a spirit of partnership and cooperation. We do ask each church and church member to prayerfully seek and follow God's direction about the part He wants us each to take to become debt free.

Though a few of our churches have already made their decisions about their part in this campaign, we request that in the next month all of our member churches would spend much time in prayer and discussion to consider what the Lord would lead their church to give, over and above their current association "missions budget" giving, for the next two years toward this debt retirement goal. Current "Building Debt" giving can be applied toward this new debt retirement campaign emphasis.

To pay off our remaining debt would require an average of \$10,000 per association member church – with some churches being able to give much more, and some much less, but every church participating in some sacrificial way. Since each church has its own needs, financial abilities and preferences, each church will be asked to decide what sacrificial amount they can commit, and how best to fund that amount. Many churches may find it best to place this commitment amount in their budget for two years, some may decide to use existing balances, and some may want to challenge individual members to meet this need through special offerings or commitments, or any combination of these.

In addition to asking all our churches to give sacrificially to this campaign, we will also be conducting efforts to ask individuals to consider making personal financial commitments. Our goal is to raise 20% of the total funds needed through individual commitments. Individuals will be able to make commitments online or by commitment cards. As a way to recognize donors and to track our progress toward reaching our goal amount, each \$125 donation will purchase a “virtual” brick for our building in the donor’s name. Donors can also purchase a “physical” brick (as long as supply is available) to be displayed in our Wall of Faith Memorial Wall at the Ministry Center, by purchasing four or more “virtual bricks”.

We ask all our churches to discuss and make their debt retirement decisions/commitments for the next two years by/on October 28, 2018, which we are calling **“SEIZE THE DAY” Commitment Sunday**. We ask churches and individuals to submit these commitments to the association office by November 1, and then join with churches from across the association on November 4, **“SEIZE THE DAY” Celebration Sunday**, for the revealing of our total commitments and to have a time of corporate worship, praise and fellowship, to be held at Union FBC.

Our Committee has produced, with the aid of Eric Anderson, a special 4 minute video campaign presentation that we ask each church to show during a morning worship service and other meetings to help explain and promote the campaign. These are available by DVD and by digital download over the internet. We have also produced a “FAQ” page with frequently asked questions to provide more information related to the campaign goals and process.

Thank you for your local church ministry and for your partnership for Kingdom purposes with other churches in our association. If you have any questions, please call the Association office, or a member of our committee, and the information will be gladly provided.

Yours for our joint ministries,  
FBA Debt Retirement Campaign Committee