

Partnering for Kingdom Purposes

Debt Retirement Campaign

FAQ- Frequently Asked Questions

1. How and when do I make a financial commitment?

Churches and individuals can make financial commitments to the debt retirement campaign at any time they choose. However, the Campaign Committee is asking, if possible, for every church to prayerfully consider and decide the amount they feel led to commit for this campaign by October 28, which we are calling “**Seize the Day**” **Commitment Sunday**. Funds can be given in whatever way is best for the church - - by a one-time donation, by two annual donations, by monthly or quarterly donations, or any combination of these. Funds can be given from existing church balances, through the regular church budget, or through special offering collections.

Churches and individuals are asked to indicate the amount they commit on the special campaign commitment cards provided. Please mail these cards to the association office, or complete them online through our association website, by November 1, so commitment amounts can be totaled for our “**Seize the Day**” **Celebration Service** on November 4.

2. How much should I/we give?

The amount committed and given through this campaign is to be over and above regular giving to the association ministries budget.

The amount each church or individual should give is a personal matter that each will need to decide for themselves. We have noted that if the average given per association church was \$10,000, we would reach our goal. However, we know not all churches can or will give that much. Some of our churches are very small, and often struggle to pay their own monthly bills. So we ask that every church give something, according to their ability, as part of our Association family, even if that something is very small in comparison to what other churches may be able to give. The story of the widow giving her mite (i.e. penny) teaches us that she gave more in God’s sight than those who gave thousands of dollars out of their abundance. So nothing is too small, or too big. The concept is “Not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice”. Obviously, to average \$10,000 per association church, some will have to give substantially more than that to balance those who may only be able to give a fraction of that amount.

The same would be true for individual giving. Some can give larger commitments, while some can only give a small amount. 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”.

3. How will this free up money for ministry?

How money will be freed for ministry is a matter of doing simple math. The yearly minimum mortgage payments on the Ministry Center is now approximately \$40,000, of which about \$21,000 is for interest. This means \$40,000 per year can go to other ministry needs after the mortgage is paid. And every dollar given through this campaign will go directly on the remaining principal, thereby also reducing the amount of interest on the remaining principal.

4. Aren't we going to need to do deferred maintenance on the building?

Yes, there will be major maintenance expenses as the ministry center ages, as with any building. However, these expenses will be far less than the \$40,000 a year we pay now on our mortgage. But the reality is, these maintenance and repair items will be required whether we pay the mortgage off, or not. However, these maintenance expenses will then be IN ADDITION to the \$40,000 annual mortgage payments, making it even more financially demanding. So paying off the mortgage now insures future financial viability.

5. What kind of additional ministry will the association be able to do once the debt is retired?

All funds which were used for debt payments will then be available for additional ministries as decided by each church. It is difficult to project 2-3 years, or more, into the future what additional ministries we will be able to do as life, community and culture changes so quickly and drastically. Once we get near being debt free, we will go through a thorough process involving leaders from our churches to evaluate the greatest needs in our churches and communities at that time and how best to address those needs. However, our major focus as the Association is and will be finding more ways to strengthen struggling churches and helping churches start new churches where needed.

6. What if we decide to sell the ministry center?

If our church representatives decide at some point to sell the ministry center, the available equity we have in our building will simply be greater at that time. If/when we would sell the ministry center, those same representatives will decide how best to use the resulting funds. The funds could be used for another association office/ministry facility, and any remaining funds could possibly be dedicated for helping new churches purchase initial property or for building, or other priorities at that time.