

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



WHY ARE WE DOING THIS ACTS 1:8 APPEAL?

The 10th Anniversary of our moving the church to Ko'olau is August 27, 2016. We believe this marks a natural turning of the page:

- We're established on our campus and in our community.
- We've left our former denomination with title to our property.
- We've joined a new denomination that provides more freedom to serve as we feel led by God.

But it's not just about a new chapter. More importantly, this is a defining moment in the history of our church. The last chapters in our faith journey were about MOVING OVER, MOVING IN, and to some extent MOVING ON. Now we believe God is shaping a new defining moment that is more about MOVING OUT.

ARE WE GOING TO CELEBRATE OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY?

You bet! Mark your calendar because we have a big party planned for Sunday, August 28, 2016. And we're hoping to celebrate by turning the page free of debt so we're better positioned for our mission of loving God, loving people, and reaching our community and the world for Christ.

10
YEARS
ANNIVERSARY

HOW IS THIS A DEFINING MOMENT IN OUR CHURCH HISTORY?

For a very long time our primary strategy to reach the unchurched was by being a Christ-centered, attractive, safe, and welcoming place where people could learn about, feel, and share the love of Christ. In church parlance this is known as an "attractional" approach.

Reaching the world for Christ has always been part of that mission, but studies show that increasingly fewer people will come to church no matter how attractive it may be. Recognizing this, our church leadership is committed to increasingly becoming more missional as well as attractional in our ministry approaches.

Strategically, for more than a decade we've been primarily focused on locating the right place, collecting the right leaders, and engaging a committed congregation of the right people to not just make "a" difference, but be "the" difference in the lives of those who need to know and follow Jesus Christ.

The time has come to move out for Christ even as we continue to invite more people to come in.

HOW IS THIS DIFFERENT FROM THE SPIRITUAL CALL WE FELT IN PREVIOUS TIMES?

In fact it's very consistent with and a continuation of God's call on our church for some time. The difference is we believe we now have the place, the leadership, and the faith community to move forward in a new way.

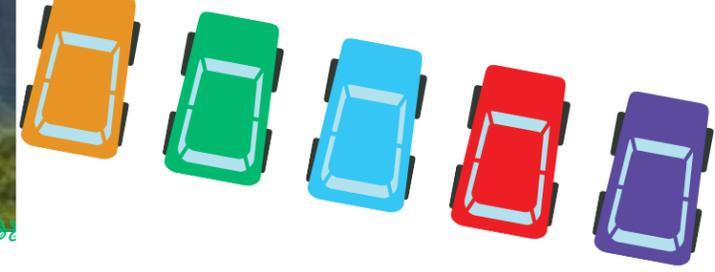


WHY ARE WE FOCUSING ON ACTS 1:8?

In that Scripture passage Jesus says to His disciples:

"... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Jesus is saying that His followers will receive power through the Holy Spirit to be His witnesses. This is true for us as well, and with that power we are to spread the Good News within our church, out into our neighborhood, throughout our region, and into the far reaches of the world.



FAQ'S

WHY ARE WE CALLING THIS AN APPEAL? HOW DOES IT DIFFER FROM A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN?

A capital campaign is usually conducted for long-term capital spending and/or when significant pledges are needed to secure a loan from a financial institution. Typically it involves a large number of volunteers. It calls for sacrificial giving beyond tithes and offerings, usually for an extended period of time. Our For Such A Time campaign that raised \$8M over three years to move to Ko'olau is a good example.

A capital appeal also asks for prayerful sacrificial giving, but usually for a goal that can be achieved in a much shorter time frame, and involves far fewer volunteers to conduct. For example, the John 3:16 Appeal that allowed us to leave our former denomination with title to our property raised \$405K in less than 60 days.

WHAT IS THE FINANCIAL GOAL OF THIS ACTS 1:8 APPEAL?

It is our prayer that we could raise \$1.8M in 12 months.



IS THIS ACHIEVABLE?

The entire story of the Miracle of Ko'olau underscores that when we step out in faith God exceeds our expectations. It will take prayer, sacrifice, and God's provision.

God amazingly provided for us by allowing our dismissal from PC(USA) with title to the property for just a \$316K dismissal fee. By comparison, many churches our size had to pay millions of dollars.

When we appealed to quickly raise the \$316K, our congregation responded with \$405K in contributions in less than 60 days. That was a remarkable response to God's faithfulness by all of you and was the inspiration for our 10th Anniversary Appeal in lieu of a capital campaign.

WHAT IS OUR DEBT SITUATION, AND HOW WILL ELIMINATING IT SUPPORT THIS VISION?

- By God's grace we only have about \$1 million in debt remaining from the Ko'olau purchase, move, and associated campus improvements.



- This outstanding balance will convert to an amortized loan in August 2016. Eliminating the debt will avoid more than a quarter of a million dollars in total interest and make available approximately \$134K every year for the next ten years in additional funds that can be used for our ministry vision.

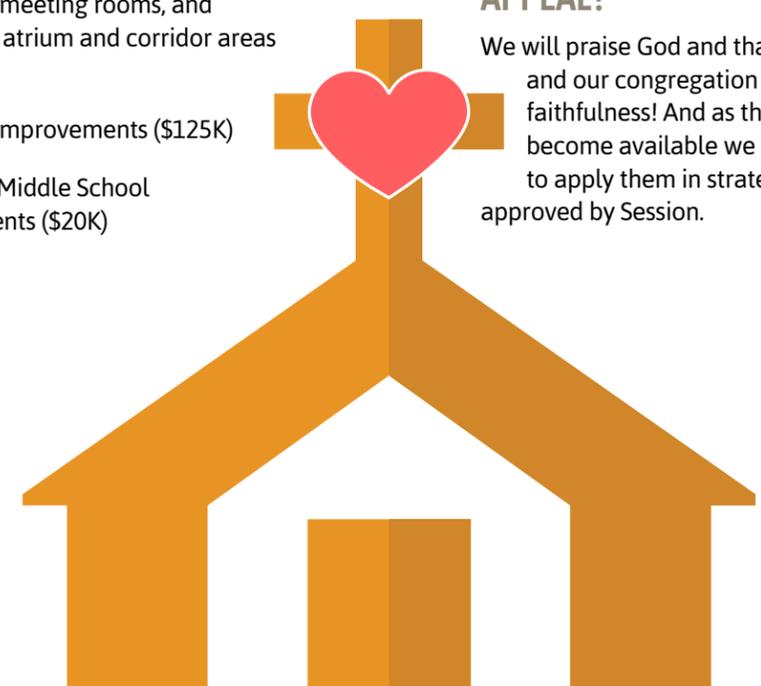
DIDN'T WE PLAN TO ELIMINATE DEBT WITH THE LAST CAPITAL CAMPAIGN?

Yes, it was our top priority, but that campaign fell \$4 million short of known requirements. Even so, \$2.8 million (73%) of the received donations were used to reduce the debt to the remaining balance of \$1.1M.

WHAT ELSE WERE THOSE DONATIONS USED FOR?

The major projects included:

- Expanding and finishing renovations to our Children's Ministry facilities (\$350K)
- Replacing one of two A/C chiller units (\$180K)
- Retrofitting the campus with more efficient LED lighting (\$145K)
- Expanding and resealing the parking lot (150K)
- Carpeting the Fellowship Hall, Mauka and Makai meeting rooms, and downstairs atrium and corridor areas (\$97K)
- Sanctuary improvements (\$125K)
- Youth and Middle School improvements (\$20K)



WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE?

There's a long list, but two of the major items include:

- Increased parking capacity: Ten years after moving we once again face the need for additional parking, especially on Sunday. Candidly, limited parking determines how we structure many ministries. Increased capacity would expand our church capabilities as well as assist our for-profit entities to generate more income for FPC. [estimate \$300K-\$500K]
- Moving forward with master planning and entitlement application for any future campus development beyond the current building footprint. [estimate \$300K+]

After the remaining \$1.1 million debt is retired, any remaining Acts 1:8 Appeal funds will be applied to achieve these two strategic goals.

WHAT IF MORE THAN \$1.8 MILLION IS RAISED IN THIS APPEAL?

We will praise God and thank Him and our congregation for their faithfulness! And as the funds become available we will continue to apply them in strategic ways approved by Session.

WHAT IS MEANT BY SACRIFICIAL GIVING?

Generosity is not measured by the size of a gift, but rather by the sacrifice that goes into the gift. Jesus specifically points this out while observing people donating to the temple. He identifies the poor widow's mite as worth more than all the rest, because it was not given from her surplus, but from her own need (Luke 21: 1-4).

Not everyone will be able to contribute the same amount of time, talent, and treasure. The Bible says God is most interested in the spirit in which you participate. A good spiritual guide as you prayerfully discern what is right for your family is "not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice."

HOW MUCH WILL I BE EXPECTED TO GIVE?

That is entirely between you and God, and it should be a decision that is sincerely prayed about and thoughtfully discerned. Only you can determine what is your capacity or your willingness to give. If you are married, discuss it carefully with your spouse, and engage your children, if they're old enough to consider how they can participate.

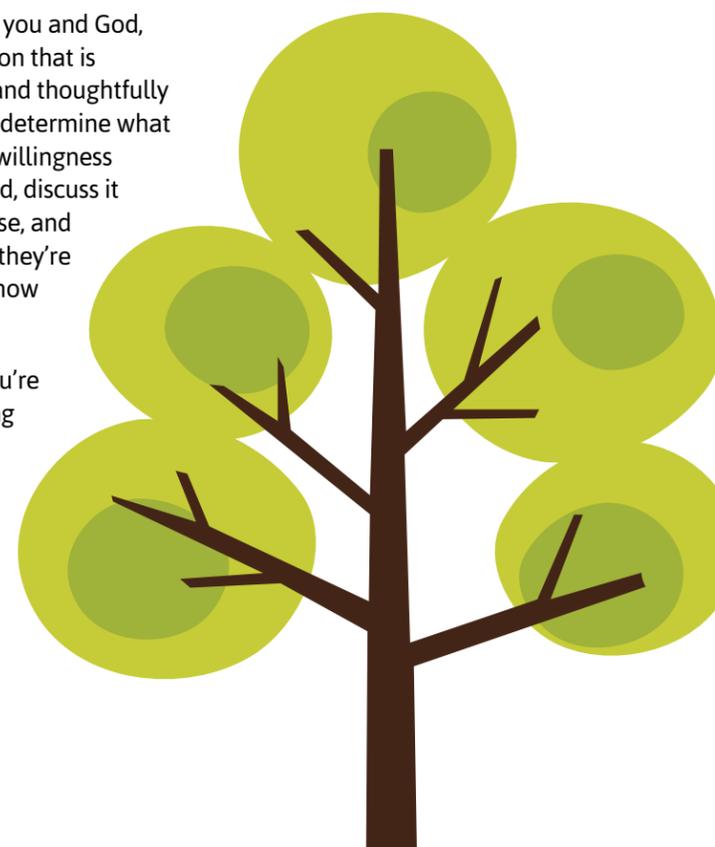
No matter how much you're able to give, we're hoping that 100% of those who consider First Prez their church family will participate.

WHEN WILL I MAKE MY PLEDGE AND HOW LONG WILL I HAVE TO HONOR IT? WOULD IT BE HELPFUL FOR ME TO PAY MY PLEDGE EARLY?

We'll be asking for most pledges at the 10th Anniversary Party on August 28. The sooner pledged amounts can be donated, the sooner we can redirect those funds to ministry instead of debt principal and interest. It's recognized that many may need to spread out payments, and we are asking that your pledge be honored within 12 months.

BEYOND CASH GIFTS, HOW ELSE CAN I GIVE?

In addition, other tangible assets such as appreciated stocks, retirement funds, and real estate can be contributed.



BEYOND A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION, HOW CAN I HELP?

A vital contribution is prayer. Specifically:

- For our church and God's call on our lives individually and collectively;
- For the leadership team of our 10th Anniversary Appeal and all who are enlisted to assist in conducting it;
- That God will show you how to make your financial commitment a meaningful response to His grace and faithfulness.

In addition, other tangible assets such as stocks and real estate can be contributed.

CAN I PAY BY CREDIT CARD?

Yes, pledges can be paid via credit card on our website www.fpchawaii.org. Keep in mind that our church does pay a fee for credit card transactions of approximately 3%. Some people like to add that transaction fee to their donation, but it's not expected.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

Go to the church website www.fpchawaii.org for additional information, or contact:

- Executive Coordinator Ron Mathieu (808) 392-3116 ron@fpchawaii.org, or
- Executive Director Chris Pan (808) 440-6600, or chris@fpchawaii.org.



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