



**BUILDING
HOPE**
FOR TOMORROW
— WAUKEE —

*"But the seed planted in the good earth represents those who hear the Word, embrace it, and produce a harvest **beyond** their wildest dreams." Mark 4:20*

Building Hope for Tomorrow Questions and Answers Guide

This booklet provides answers to several questions you might be asking regarding the Building Hope for Tomorrow campaign. Please know we care about each one of your questions, and we thank you for already taking the first step to learn more about Hope Waukee and this giving campaign by reading this Q&A.

If you have any further questions that weren't addressed in this booklet, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Jon at info@hopewaukee.org or by calling 515-264-2000.

Visionary Questions

Q. What is the focus of the Building Hope for Tomorrow campaign?

A. Long-term: freeing us up as a congregation to dream and plan for an exciting future of building growth and renovation!

Population Growth!

First, Waukee is now the fastest growing city in Iowa! This brings incredible potential over the next decade to reach thousands of new residents for Christ in Waukee and the surrounding area.

Church Growth!

Secondly, Hope Waukee is a healthy, growing, thriving congregation, and because of that, we want our facility to keep up with our growing mission! Worship attendance has increased by over 30% in the past year. Over 700 students join us on Wednesday nights, maxing out our building capacity. We've become a true community center all throughout the year hosting and partnering with community groups and gatherings. In addition to our numerical growth, our facility, (originally completed in 2007), needs multiple upgrades including lighting, HVAC, and kitchen infrastructure.

Future Expansion!

Finally, we believe God is leading Hope Waukee to consider future expansion of the facility including a new worship center and additional classrooms and gathering spaces.

Short-term: Given these factors, our focus now is a one-year debt-reduction campaign. Hope Waukee current has approximately \$2,900,000 of debt from our

building purchase and renovations. Church leadership determined a healthy level of debt during the original purchase and renovation of our current facility, and thanks to your generosity, we have been faithfully paying down that amount for the past several years. However, making an increased, intentional, all-church effort to pay off our debt will not only save us approximately \$60,000 in annual interest, but set us up to start planning for future building renovations and expansion. With interest rates predicted to rise in the next several years, this makes paying off our debt even sooner a high priority.

Q. Isn't Hope Waukee big enough already? Why do we need to continue to spend money on our building?

A. Big enough for us or God? This is God's church, not ours or yours. We don't have the authority to settle or be "big enough" for the kingdom of God. God has blessed this church with increase, growth, and capacity. This has happened by the grace of God and because of your deep commitment to mission. We're continually impressed by your willingness as a church to be faithful to the harvest God provides (Luke 10:2).

The mission of Hope is to "reach out to the world around us and share the everlasting love of Jesus Christ." The goal is to remain faithful to God's mission and expand his kingdom as we maintain being good stewards of what God has given us.

As a church, you have continued to offer your very best to the Lord that often includes sacrifice of your personal preferences for the sake of feeding the hungry and clothing the naked. You understand and faithfully embrace the biblical definition of what it means to be a follower of Jesus ("servant" not "consumer"). Your joy, enthusiasm, and ability to adapt has remained constant as Hope Waukee continues to grow and focus on mission – and that's impressive.

Q. What is the primary motivation for paying down our debt, upgrading the facility, and preparing for expansion?

A. In Luke 12, Jesus tells a parable to remind us, *From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.* Again, Jesus tells a parable in Matthew 25 and says, *'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'*

These among many others of Jesus teachings speak to the Biblical understanding of stewardship- the idea that everything we have has been given by God to us to manage well. God longs to entrust resources, money, and influence to those who he can trust to be faithful, wise, and work for the growth of his kingdom.

Hope Waukee has been blessed with the opportunity to steward an 53,000 sq. Ft facility on 12.4 acres, providing us with an incredible tool for ministry. Biblical stewardship is caring for our existing building while looking to the future as we steward the current and future growth of our city and church.

Simply put, we're on a mission from God! Throughout the history of Hope, we have proven that a building is not necessary to carry out that mission, but it can sure help!

Q. If the vision of Hope Waukee is to be a church focused on outreach and serving our community in tangible ways, why invest so much money into our facility?

A. We are called to be committed to both reaching out and serving the community around us as well as taking care of the facility we are in. Our call is to reach out to those outside and to develop the people inside. By maintaining and upgrading the building, we enhance our ability to do both.

We believe in the biblical mandates from God that involves both evangelism and discipleship. Growing deep and wide. Jesus was passionate about both! Scripture gives us countless examples of not only financial or material poverty, but spiritual, emotional, and relational poverty as well. We know meeting needs can happen in many ways, while still being faithful to God's heart. Having a giving campaign focused on paying down our facility debt has not and will never come at the expense of giving to those in need. Hope Waukee currently tithes the biblical example of 10 percent (projected at \$115,000 this fiscal year) of its annual budget to dozens of ministries and outreach efforts locally and globally. This giving will absolutely continue, as well the dozens of outreach programs and ministry efforts we are currently doing including food and clothing drives, support of local schools, and partnerships with Waukee Area Christian Services and more.





GIVING CAMPAIGN QUESTIONS

Q. What is a capital campaign, and why is it important for our church?

A. A capital campaign is an effective tool God has used in the past to inspire us to grow spiritually and improve or expand the church's facilities. These campaigns have resulted in incredible growth and joy! This campaign will involve much more than fundraising- it will focus on prayer, study of God's Word, building relationships, inspirational worship, and yes- cheerful and faithful giving. Each of these are areas of discipleship that we are all called to continually grow in as followers of Jesus.

It's a good time to be the church! (1 Cor. 13:13; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 9:7; Luke 12:33-34, 48).

Secondly, in the past few years, Hope Waukee has had projected general fund budgets at a deficit, meaning the current expenses of our facility and ministries have outgrown current general fund giving. Past campaigns have shown that an intentional, focused season of teaching, learning, and growing in our Biblical understanding of stewardship and generosity will not only allow our capital project goals to be met but increase our tithing as a church overall.

Q. Are we doing this campaign because we are in some kind of trouble financially?

A. Can we grow as a congregation in our financial giving? Absolutely. Are we confident that God will supply our needs as we trust in him for the future of this church? Absolutely. Hope Waukee, you are an incredibly generous congregation. We pay our bills, compensate staff fairly (based on a salary survey of thousands of churches), and continue to tithe to dozens of local and global mission partners with ten percent of all offerings received.

All of us are works in progress, listening to God, and learning to give sacrificially and generously. Ultimately, we trust God. So the leadership at Hope Waukee is not going to use a giving campaign as a gimmick or any tool to pressure you to give more. The leadership of our church is focused on helping all of us grow in understanding and application of God's Word, and finances is no exception. We're going to teach about money and possessions because Jesus does in his Word, and he cares about it, and us, a lot.

In addition, the debt reduction we are pursuing requires giving above and beyond general fund giving so as to not sacrifice the ongoing ministry of the church.

Q. If we need to do a giving campaign, then why aren't we hiring a professional fundraiser, like a lot of other churches do?

A. Our experience has taught us that we very much prefer homemade giving campaigns rather than attempting to adapt a fundraising company's methods to our context. Plus, we're saving about \$100,000 by doing it ourselves.

Q. Isn't a giving campaign just a sneaky way of doing a fundraiser, but calling it something else?

A. Actually, there's a significant difference: Fundraisers typically include established methods, sales or gimmicks to encourage people to give more, offering recognition and/or rewards for those who do. That's appropriate for a non-profit organization trying to raise money, but not for a church trying to teach people a Bible-based model for giving as a matter of faith and spiritual discipline. Giving campaigns at any campus of Hope do not include pressure, tactics or gimmicks. You won't get your name engraved on a plaque if you give a lot of money. We give offerings at church for God's glory, not our own. During "Building Hope for Tomorrow" you'll simply be asked to pray about what God wants to do through you to accomplish his will for this church. Then, you will be invited to trust God enough to take a leap of faith and give whatever he lays on your heart to give ... not to be recognized or honored by other people, but to honor God!

Q. Can I still give towards "Building Hope for Tomorrow" for Hope Waukee if I worship at another Hope campus?

A. Absolutely. Wherever you worship, you can indicate "Building Hope for Tomorrow-Waukee" OR "Hope Waukee Building" on a check or through online giving at hopewaukee.org/give and indicate "Waukee Building".

Q. Do all of the opportunities to give to Hope Waukee through various assets apply to the campaign fund?

A. Yes! For more information, refer to the Bible-Based Giving handout in your packet or online.

Q. How many volunteers will it take to make this giving campaign work?

A. A campaign leadership team of approximately 30 volunteers just like you is working behind the scenes with

various aspects of the project, including vision, strategy, budgeting, informational meetings, and communication. They are all volunteers just like you that are passionate about what God is doing at Hope Waukee!

Q. How does a giving campaign work? What should I expect?

A. The "Building Hope for Tomorrow" campaign is one year, running from January 2025-December 2025. You can expect to be surprised if you're preparing for a high-pressure, slick and polished effort to get you to part with more money than you really want to give! It's a pretty simple process ... there are basically three stages:

1. Informational Meetings: Now, before you run away screaming, rest assured these have nothing to do with making a sales pitch. Info meeting hosts and volunteers are not allowed to ask for money, or even talk about how much a person should give. Instead, we want to provide opportunities for you to get together with other people from Hope Waukee! Meetings will take place at the church on Sundays and Wednesdays during the campaign. You'll watch a video where we will explain why we are doing the campaign and walk you through campaign materials. After the video, volunteers from the campaign team will be on hand to answer any questions you might have. That's it! Simple. Easy. Fun. Painless. Meet some people, share some stories, watch a video and get some questions answered.



2. Worship, Prayer and Bible Study: The Christian fundamentals of prayer and getting into God's Word through worship, study, prayer and daily devotions will serve as the foundation of the campaign. We're so excited for our campaign sermon series from October 27-November 24 where we'll Remember, Reimagine, Rediscover, Rethink and Recommit as a church family, thanking God for the past ten years and dreaming about the next decade of ministry! In addition to worshipping weekly, we continue to challenge you to attend your weekly Bible studies and small groups, engage with the daily devotional guide, as well as commit to praying for the campaign in several ways outlined in the Prayer Guide in your campaign folder or online.

3. Commitment Sunday and Processional Offering: Although you may give at any time, on November 24, we'll thank God for Hope Waukee, and we'll give offerings to him with thankful and joy-filled hearts, responding to his call through a one-time special offering, and/or one-year pledge by bringing the commitment card and envelope you receive in your folder to the altar. The commitment card will have a place to offer up your time, talent, or treasure, so everyone at Hope Waukee can bring an important and valuable gift, regardless of financial circumstances.

Q. If it's that simple, then why not just tell us what we need and see what happens? Why bother with all the work it takes to put together a giving campaign?

A. There are times we've wondered the same thing! However, the truth is, that while telling people what we

need financially might be enough to accomplish our giving goals, it would not allow us to fulfill our gathering and growing goals. It is our sincere hope that in the process of this faith journey that you will learn to give cheerfully and connect in a deeper way to God, to one another and to the vision God has so clearly laid before us as a church. These gathering and growing goals are as important as the giving goals, so it's important that we set aside several weeks to develop these healthy habits and allow God the time and space to work however he wants to.

Q. If our current debt is \$2,900,000, then certainly paying it off completely is our goal. I know all things are possible with God, but what if we don't reach this goal?

A. We feel confident that we'll be able to continue as a growing, thriving church no matter what the financial results of the campaign happen to be. Although we've planned for and are operating with sound financial planning and budgeted projections, ultimately we trust God, not our own plans. He's always made a way to accomplish the vision He's given us, and He won't stop now!

Q. What about our regular offerings? Do we stop giving those so we can give to the campaign fund?

A. Only if God directs you to do that. But, the ongoing ministries of this church need to be funded in order to continue to thrive, so please prayerfully consider your giving to the general fund of the church in addition to and separate from the new campaign fund. We don't





want to sacrifice one fund for the sake of another. For some of you, your first step of faith will be starting a monthly tithe to the general fund, which supports our facility, staff, and ministry. For others, God has put you in a financial position to be able to give above and beyond your regular tithe, and make a gift to the campaign.

Q. Could any of the money I give to the campaign ever be used for the church's General Fund expenses?

A. No. The church has a policy on this issue. Every penny you give to "Building Hope for Tomorrow" will go to the campaign fund specifically.

Q. How do I make my offering to "Building Hope for Tomorrow"?

A. We're asking you to pray about giving in one or two ways – a one-time up-front offering and/or a one-year financial commitment to be given in weekly or monthly payments. Then, add those two offerings together on the Commitment Card you'll receive in your folder and bring to worship any weekend. Gifts may also be made online at hopewaukee.org/tomorrow, mailed to, or dropped off at the church office any time. If you have questions about online giving, or other forms of gifts, please email info@hopewaukee.org or call 515-264-2000.



Q. Why are children and students being asked to participate in this offering?

A. Children are not just the future of the church, they are a big part of the church right now. We want them to participate so they can experience the joy of cheerful giving! Not to mention they'll learn biblical, life-long lessons about generosity during HopeKids on weekends, and hopefully your discussions at home. That's why we'll be collecting money during HopeKids and student ministry each week of the campaign and they'll be invited to participate in the processional offering with the entire congregation on Commitment Weekend. Just like the grown-ups, this is a guilt-free, pressure-free opportunity to grow.

Q. What if I don't have any money to give? Should I give my last dollar to the church in order to prove my faith?

A. Absolutely not. The church has a responsibility not to take your last coins (Luke 21:1-4 is one of the most misinterpreted texts in the Bible, and we'll do some teaching on that during this campaign). There are plenty of ways to give to the church with the other resources God has given you. The manner in which you give is more important than the amount. No one will pressure you to give more than you are spiritually prepared to give. No one will be counting your offering at the altar. Your offering is a holy thing and an act of worship between you and God, whether it is your treasure, your time or your talent you are giving to God's church.

Q. If I don't have much to give, how can I feel a part of this campaign?

A. This campaign is an opportunity to discover the spiritual discipline of tithing (see next question), or at least to start taking steps in that direction. If you're not giving to the church, try 1 or 2 percent. If you're tithing 5 percent, try 10 percent. This is a faith practice, just like prayer and worship. We do encourage you to give responsibly. We offer financial classes on a regular basis to help you learn biblical ways of handling your finances.

In addition to financial gifts, God also encourages us to give of our time and talents. Maybe God has blessed you with a flexible schedule to donate service hours to the church. Maybe God has gifted you with skills in construction, administration, or organization. There are over 20 different ministries that operate weekly through



the church, so contact us at info@hopewaukee.org or visit hopewaukee.org/volunteer to learn more!

**Q. I thought the Bible commanded “tithing?”
Should I base my giving on that?**

A. *Tithing – setting aside the first 10 percent of our income for God – is a biblical guideline for giving, introduced in the Old Testament (Leviticus 27:30), and lifted up by Jesus as something good to do (Luke 11:42). Yet, in that same verse, Jesus insists that*

tithing as a religious action apart from love and justice is incomplete. Jesus wants us to give more than our tithes – he wants our hearts, and reminds us that our hearts and treasures hang out together (Matthew 6:20-21). He wants to set us free from living for things that won’t last and invest in eternal things. Biblically speaking, then, tithing is not a litmus test for righteous living, nor is it necessarily a maximum offering for believers (Luke 12:48, Luke 19:8). It is a biblical guideline that many Christians apply as we seek to live

out a life filled with freedom, peace and joy – even when it comes to money. In this way, we ask that you give to the campaign as God leads you, in addition to your regular tithe.

Q. OK, so what's the bottom-line.

How much should I give?

A. Sorry, but we won't tell you what to give, because we don't know the answer. Only God does. We're not even going to suggest an amount. And we hope you don't decide what to give based on some reasonable calculation, factoring in what you gave last time plus or minus an income change. Nor some other formula for coming up with a number that has nothing to do with what God wants; we want you to discover the joy and freedom of giving God's way ... and that won't happen if you let a human being tell you what to give.

Q. So how am I supposed to know what to give?

A. It's not complicated. It's a matter of faith...God's revelation, not human reason!

STEP ONE: Pray.

Ask God this simple question: *"What do you want to do through me to accomplish your will for this church?"*

STEP TWO: Listen to God.

Keep asking until you "hear" God's answer. If you don't get anything – in other words, if you don't get a pretty strong indication in your heart, soul, or mind as you pray each day throughout this campaign – then quiet your life until you can. Be still. Listen. God will write a number on your heart, soul, or mind (Psalm 46:10).

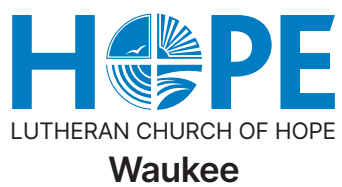
STEP THREE: Take a leap of faith.

Trust God enough to do whatever he calls you to do, believing that he will provide the means to make it happen (2 Corinthians 9:6-11). Now you're giving as a matter of faith – and thus, experiencing the joy and freedom of Bible-based giving without anyone telling you, other than God, what to give!

Enjoy the feeling!







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