

# First Christian Church, Greensboro

## Vision Statement

### Our Mission/Our History

For nearly 100 years, since its founding on Elm Street in 1917, First Christian Church has been a presence in Greensboro. When the congregation moved to West Market Street in 1952, the new building offered new opportunities for ministry and service. Our members, throughout our history, gave generously and sacrificially to grow and renovate the building to better serve our congregation and community. Our building has served us well, but it is now necessary to enhance our historic building once again.

In the spring of 2009, the Board appointed a Capital Feasibility and Building Committee – representing a cross-section of the congregation – to discuss some of the physical needs of our church building, and explore a course of action that will make our building better able to enhance our ministries.

Our congregation does not exist for the sake of having a building; instead, the building exists as a resource to help us live out our mission: To know and love God, to nurture each other, and to reach out and welcome all people in the name of Jesus Christ.

### Our Vision/Our Dreams

In 2009, our congregation adopted an ambitious ministry plan, setting goals that will help us live into our mission by:

- Offering worship opportunities that are meaningful and life-giving
- Welcoming visitors in a way that helps them find a home here
- Developing a small group ministry so that church members can grow closer in relationship with each other and with God
- Communicating effectively with our membership and with our community, and becoming an active presence in our neighborhood
- Using our financial resources wisely and encouraging generous giving beyond ourselves
- Learning together through intentional Bible Study and other educational opportunities
- Reaching out through local and global mission projects, and continuing our support of involvement with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Making the best use of our staff and lay leadership resources

(Our entire ministry plan, including specific goals, can be found at [www.fccgreensboro.org/category/resources](http://www.fccgreensboro.org/category/resources).)

### Our Challenge

#### Boiler System Replacement

Estimated Cost

\$115,000

Our boiler has outlived its life expectancy and is operating at an estimated efficiency of less than 40%. A new heating and water heating system would be much more energy-efficient and would save the church a lot of money in energy bills.

#### Entryway and Gathering Space Renovation

Estimated Cost

\$246,000

This project would make our building more welcoming for newcomers and members alike. This renovation has three components:

1. Adding a portico to our main doors to allow for safe entry during rainy weather. (\$100,000)
2. Redecorating the entryway, including adding a visitor welcome station and brightening the atmosphere. (\$54,000)
3. Moving the administrative offices to existing office space and removing the interior office wall to create an informal gathering space outside the sanctuary. (\$92,000)

Kitchen Renovations and Water Remediation	Estimated Cost	\$32,649
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Water intrusion behind the kitchen wall has been a problem for some time, and much of the kitchen equipment is original to the building and in need of replacement. This plan would include water remediation and upgrading the kitchen facilities.

Sanctuary Doors and Windows Repair	Estimated Cost	\$25,000
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The frames of the exterior windows and doors of the sanctuary have deteriorated and need to be repaired or replaced.

Steeple Replacement	Estimated Cost	\$76,000
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Our current steeple has a number of problems that make it more efficient to replace than repair. The new steeple will be made out of maintenance-free fiberglass and architecturally compatible with our building.

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	Estimated Total	\$494,649
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These are the project possibilities explored by the committee in 2009. Some of these projects are deferred maintenance that simply must be dealt with in order for us to be good stewards of our resources. Others are projects that would enhance our ministry and make our building more suitable for ministry in the twenty-first century.

In addition to these possibilities, we will also consider contributing a portion of the funds we raise to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in North Carolina, in support of the regional capital campaign to be kicked off later this year.

Estimated Grand Total (10% tithe to Regional Capital Campaign added to estimated total of possible projects):	\$544,144
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## Our Plan

The Campaign Feasibility Committee explored these possibilities, and decided to recommend hiring Cargill Associates, a national stewardship consulting firm, to conduct a confidential, church-wide study that will help us define our priorities and determine the feasibility of our needs and our readiness to move ahead with these projects. The Board is aware that these needs may present a major financial challenge for our church, but is committed to undertaking only what our church can afford.

On Saturday, February 6, our consultant, Zip Long, led us through a workshop that explored the mission of our church and our context for ministry, as well as introducing the possibilities mentioned above. During February, each congregation member will be asked to respond to a congregational survey that will help us determine the feasibility of and interest in these projects. In early March, our consultant will present us with a report and recommendations based on the survey.