

Frequently Asked Questions



Why are we having a Capital Campaign?

A successful Capital Campaign will make it possible for our church to accomplish critically important and long-overdue improvements to our building. This will ensure that we have a comfortable space for all users—weathertight, warm in the winter, and served by upgraded utilities such as the electrical system.

Over the last several years we have done what we can to prevent further damage, but the water infiltration continues to occur due to several aged and compromised roof sections. This infiltration has caused damage to interior wall areas, lintels, flashing along the roof, and rotting on window frames and sills.

By investing in this campaign, the First Congregational Church of Reading can continue to be a home for those who worship with us and for the community at large.

Why is the church doing a Building for Now and the Future campaign at this time?

We have been examining the church's sustainability for several years. One realization is that if we can improve the physical condition of the building, we can attract more people, both as church members and as sharers of this beautiful space. With fresh energy and a refreshed building, we look forward to an exciting new phase for FCCR. Our doors can open even wider!

What are the details of the repairs needed and associated costs? (listed in order of importance)

- Roof Repairs and Replacement \$123,000
- Exterior Door Repairs and Replacement \$110,000
- Prioritized Window Repairs and Replacement \$130,000
- Electrical System Upgrade \$48,000
- Completion of Window Repairs and Replacement \$100,000
- 1959 Building Addition Exterior Repair \$82,000

Total Cost \$593,000 as per current estimates

What is our campaign goal?

The goal of the campaign is to raise \$400,000-\$600,000.

How do I make my commitment? Please read the Ways to Give information in your packet or on our website: ChurchofReading.org/Capital-Campaign. Then fill out the Letter of Commitment with the amount you want to contribute and the method of contribution. This may be a one-time payment, or scheduled payments over the next three years. Our goal is to receive all Letters of Commitment by October 27, 2024. The fulfillment period is October 27, 2024, through October 31, 2027.

Is a Capital Campaign contribution separate from our regular, annual pledge? Yes, it is a separate campaign and does not affect your annual pledge. Annual pledges are still crucial to support the church's operating costs and missions. Your contribution to the Capital Campaign may offer tax advantages. It is always a good idea to consult your tax accountant or financial planner for details on your personal situation.

What will happen if funds given to the Building for Now and the Future campaign exceed our \$600,000 goal? This would be a wonderful outcome! Until the project is completed, there is still the possibility that related issues needing funding may arise. If there are significant funds above the project's needs, distribution will be discussed in our Coordinating Committee, and with the Congregation, if the amount is appropriate.

What happens if we do not reach our goal? We have every confidence that the goal will be met. However, the Capital Campaign has prioritized the needed repairs and associated costs. Whatever money is collected will be used for the highest-priority items first, with any remaining funds applied to lower-priority repairs.

What if my situation changes and I am unable to completely fulfill my commitment? If your situation changes, please contact the church office at 781-944- 0205 and ask to have a campaign leader call you to adjust your commitment as needed.

Who has access to the campaign giving records? As with annual pledges, this information is considered confidential. Only those required to record or process the contributions will have access to these records.

Why do we need the UCC fundraising consultant and what is the cost? The consultant, Jill White from Capital Campaign Services, UCC Church Building and Loan Fund, is helping to ensure that we achieve the optimal result from our campaign. She is guiding us in following best practices based on their extensive experience in working with other churches. In addition, the service's vast array of resources and samples are available to us. The fee is 10 percent of our church's annual pledges (not Capital Campaign pledges), with 30 percent of this going to two non-profit organizations chosen by our church.