



**BUILDING 2**  
a **HOPE BEYOND**  
DES MOINES

“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 2 a Hope Beyond Questions & Answers Guide

This booklet provides answers to a number of questions you might be asking regarding the Building 2 a Hope Beyond giving campaign. Please know we care about each and every one of your questions, and we thank you for already taking the first step to learn more about Lutheran Church of Hope 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@hopedesmoines.org](mailto:info@hopedesmoines.org).

### Future Facility Questions

#### Q: Isn't Hope big enough already? Why do we need to continue to spend money on a building?

A: Big enough for us, or God? This is God's church, not ours or yours. We don't have the authority to stop the expansion of God's kingdom. God has blessed this church with phenomenal growth. 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 "farmers" of the harvest God provides (Luke 10:2).

The mission of Lutheran Church of Hope is to "reach out to the world around us and share the everlasting love of Jesus Christ."

For Hope, the goal has never been about growing this congregation to a certain size – it has always been to remain faithful to God's mission and expand his Kingdom!

Make no mistake, the temptation exists to slow the growth or develop an attitude of trying to control it, or look at a blessing from God and call it a burden. But, your enthusiasm, joy and ability to adapt has remained constant as Hope continues to grow – and that's impressive! You have avoided the temptation to develop a complaining spirit or a grumpy heart. You have sacrificed your personal preferences (and many times your comfort) for the sake of mission, making room for more people to come and hear the life-changing good news of Jesus Christ. You understand and faithfully embrace the biblical definition of what it means to be a follower of Jesus ("servant" not "consumer"). You realize it's not an acceptable or faithful option for a church that considers Christian mission a top priority to "shut our doors" or put a "no vacancy" sign on our front door. You are a faithful church, after God's own heart!

#### Q: Is Hope Des Moines growing? What is the primary motivation moving to this new facility?

A: Yes, praise God! Outreach Magazine, a national publication, recently featured Lutheran Church of Hope as one of the 100 largest congregations of any denomination in the country. At Hope, we've always looked at growth in terms of deep and wide. Deep in our love, in our discipleship, in our ability to look more and more like a healthy, mature family of God. Wide in the number of people we're reaching with our various services, classes and outreach.

Hope Des Moines has grown tremendously (by 79% in worship attendance over the past four years, as well as through numerous new ministries). In the last four years, children's ministry has more than doubled, student ministry began and is thriving, and the number of adults in groups and classes has tripled!

Because of this continued growth, we are experiencing growing pains (which we celebrate!) in terms of worship space as well as classroom space. All of our classrooms are used for our growing preschool during the week, adult classes, outreach ministries, and our HopeKids ministry on the weekends. The loft area that is designed to hold approximately 70 people hosts more than 150 guests for our Breakfast Club ministry each Sunday, offering a life-changing community where dozens have come to faith, joined the church, or found healing from addictions.

Currently, every day and night of the week is full with ministry, enabling us to only host one or two events or groups simultaneously. This also results in dozens of weekly room change-overs and set-ups, taking important staff hours away from relational ministry. The reality is we have a beautiful, strategic location in the heart of the city, but without an option to expand, we

would be land-locked moving into the future with a growing, dynamic church. When you look at these realities, it's easy to see that our current space, although sufficient at the time we moved in, is an obstacle to carrying out and expanding the mission God has given us as a church in the future. Simply put, we're on a mission! God has called Hope to "reach out to the world around us and share the everlasting love of Jesus Christ." Throughout the history of Hope, we have proven a building is not necessary to carry out that mission, but it can sure help!

#### Q: What is the rationale for moving to a brand new facility when we had plans in place to expand the Ingersoll site with the addition?

A: There are three main reasons: Financial, Practical, and Missional. First, financial. After reviewing the cost of remodeling and hopefully connecting the Ingersoll and Willis buildings, the budget was already over \$2,500,000.00. That plan would gain us approximately 8,000 more square feet, while still not addressing the pressing need for more worship space. On the other hand, the University location provides us 63,000 square feet for only \$2,000,000.00. Essentially, we get way more space for a lot less cost! Secondly, practical reasons. While adding more space for classrooms, offices, and fellowship, at our current rate of growth, this addition would have provided about three to five years of added space. After that, we would be land-locked at the Ingersoll location with no options for continued growth. Third, missional reasons. It has been our vision as Hope Des Moines from the very beginning to not just grow a church in the city, but establish a mission center, partnering with other churches and faith-based organizations to share God's love in practical ways with the city around us. The University location not only allows us decades of growth as a church, but gives us the capacity to pursue this vision of establishing a mission center to bless the city for years to come.

#### Q: Isn't the vision of Hope Des Moines to be a church focused on outreach and serving those in need? Why are we spending so much on a facility when we could give it directly to those in need?

A: Lutheran Church of Hope has always been a "both-and" church, meaning we believe in evangelism and discipleship as biblical mandates from God.

Growing deep and wide. Serving locally and globally. Why? Because Jesus was passionate about both! Because Scripture gives countless examples of not only financial or material poverty, but spiritual, emotional and relational poverty as well. We know meeting needs can happen many different ways, while still being faithful to God's heart. Having a giving campaign and remodeling a building has not, and will never come at the expense of giving to those in need. Hope Des Moines currently tithes the biblical example of 10 percent (projected at \$60,000 this fiscal year) of its annual budget to dozens of ministries and outreach efforts throughout the city.

This giving will absolutely continue, as well as the dozens of weekly and monthly service opportunities we currently do as a church. Having a new, larger facility actually allows us to meet many more needs in the city both short-term, through outreach events, counseling, and support groups, AND long-term, through community, discipleship and leadership development, to help those in need find victory, take ownership, and create sustainable habits and lifestyle choices. By giving to a local church, you are supporting the development and discipleship of members just like yourself who have started dozens of local ministries that create powerful change, including Freedom for Youth, Meals from the Heartland, Ruth Harbor and more!

#### Q: What is happening with the current congregation at the University location?

A: First Christian Church has been a faithful Christ-centered community in the Des Moines area for over a century. After many decades of tremendous growth, the current congregation was looking to sell their facility as an act of stewardship having become a smaller community in recent years, as well as wanting to re-focus their mission in the Western suburbs where most of their congregants live. They had been praying it could still be used for ministry somehow in the future and are thrilled that Hope will be continuing God's mission in the neighborhood! We have a great relationship with the pastor and leaders of First Christian and continue to work with them to create a smooth transition plan.

**Q: What are some of the renovations that will need to take place at the University location?**

A: The First Christian community has done an incredible job maintaining the current facility. While there are some updates that need to take place, the age of the facility is not a deterrent for us. We've met with several structural and electrical engineers, as well as multiple local contractors who have been impressed with the quality of the facility, as well as given us items we feel confident can be addressed. Although the facility has been well maintained, there are some major upgrades needed for the worship center, children's areas, and classrooms to make them clean, hospitable and have more of a modern feel. Floors one and two were renovated in 2004, but still need upgrades to be functional for our more modern worship style, safety, and 5-star hospitality goals.

Major renovations include, but are not limited to:

- Acoustical treatment for the worship center to create a healthy and positive listening experience and accommodate more contemporary worship, while maintaining the architectural and historic nature of the room (still suiting opportunities for traditional forms of worship, choirs, or instrumental groups). Yes, we hope to keep and utilize the organ from time to time!
- A new audio system designed for the new, larger worship center.
- Renovations to the nursery and HopeKids classrooms, updating welcome areas for safety and security check-points, paint, carpet, and audio/visual installation.
- Various heating and cooling upgrades throughout the facility
- General painting, flooring, and lighting upgrades throughout the facility
- Renovations to the beautiful, historic gymnasium on floor 4, making it accessible for HopeKids, Preschool, Student Ministry, our after school programs, and future neighborhood outreach
- Parking lot, landscaping, and exterior signage upgrades to create a professional, welcoming, hospitable exterior for the community around us.

We will be able to save a significant amount of money utilizing various furnishings and audio/visual equipment from our current facility.

**Q: Does the University facility come furnished? What items will stay?**

A: At this time we are still working through the details of the transition. To respect the history and tradition of First Christian Church, they will be taking some of the furnishings, but many (including many tables, chairs, kitchen appliances, and tableware will be staying).

**Q: What will be happening with floors 3,4, and 5?**

A: Floors 3-5 need a bit more work than the lower two. Our current plan is to keep a large amount of additional space to grow into, but also continue working with local faith-based mission partners that have expressed interest in leasing the space and partnering with us in our mission. The proposed plan is to allow these future tenants to pay part of their lease by putting funds towards the renovations of those floors or rooms under the approval of our congregation. We are very excited about the partnerships that are already forming and hope to see the facility become a full-scale center of mission in the near future.

**Q: Will there be increased costs for facility upkeep, maintenance, and staffing?**

A: Yes. We have worked with the current congregation to get budgetary information on all facility and maintenance costs from recent history. We have budgeted this year for a slight increase in these costs in our general fund, but also anticipate that with added space, worship (and thus prayerfully—giving) will increase. We also expect that with multiple partnerships and lease agreements already in the works, the rental income will dramatically help offset the increase in facility costs. As partnerships and community outreach continue to grow, we also plan to utilize a shared staffing model for reception, events and outreach coordination with the other tenants. This will also help offset staffing costs as our ministry grows.

**Q: Will we be keeping the pews, stained-glass windows and other traditional ascetics of the new facility?**

A: We hope to honor as much of the historical and traditional elements of the current lobby and worship center areas as possible. We believe we can achieve a beautiful mix of traditional elements while still modernizing the space for sound quality, comfort, and accessibility.

**Q: What will parking be like at the new location? Will there be enough spots for everyone?**

A: The University location offers a large parking lot on the South side of the facility with approximately 75 parking spots. We have also secured a partnership with Drake University to use one of their public lots that will be available on nights and weekends (our two highest use times as a church). In fair weather, it is walkable being only a few blocks away. In colder weather, we plan to offer rides in Hope shuttles to get you safely from your parking spot to the front door!

**Q: Will the service times be changing once we move into the new facility?**

A: Possibly. We're still praying about what schedule is the most effective for reaching the most people. Most likely there will still be multiple options a weekend to provide you and your family with plenty of worship opportunities. Keeping multiple worship service times also allows us to spread out the traffic and makes for a smoother experience for everyone. We're also excited about the potential of developing or partnering with other faith communities that may have different ethnic backgrounds as we seek to be a kingdom-minded, multi-ethnic church. The new larger space allows for multiple services even in a variety of languages in the future.

**Q: What will safety and security look like in this new facility?**

A: The great thing about the new facility is that it's designed in a way to have accessibility to only those floors or wings that are currently in use. To begin, most of our church activities will take place on floors one and two. Many of our renovations will include making the children and nursery wing even more secure than it currently is. In addition, different groups, ministries, activities will be given access only to certain areas during their scheduled time. We plan to implement a full security system, as well as continue to have reception teams made up of volunteers and staff overseeing every activity throughout the day to maintain a fun and safe environment for all!

**Q: Will our preschool continue at the new facility? Will there be an outdoor playground?**

A: Yes, we're excited to not only continue our current preschool ministry to families, but expand it to several new neighborhoods around the Drake area. We are

also working on a plan to incorporate an outdoor play area to the site plan that can be used by our preschool, HopeKids, and after-school programs.

**Q: What will happen with our current facility on Ingersoll? Is it necessary that we sell it versus leasing it out, or even keeping it for Hope's use? Will it be difficult to sell?**

A: After discussing and planning out multiple budget options, it became clear that selling our current site on Ingersoll is the most responsible route. Although we would love to keep it (and love our current location), maintaining two facilities is not financially feasible at this time without accruing large amounts of debt. Selling the Ingersoll location and putting that money towards the purchase of the new facility will not only allow us to take on minimal new debt, but set us up to pay down our current loan faster and potentially be debt free as soon as 2023! To date, even though we have not officially listed it, we've already had several offers on the Ingersoll location and multiple relators have told us they have interested buyers as well. When it comes time to sell (at the soonest June or July 2020), we will work with potential buyers to get a reasonable price, but also choose a buyer that we believe is the best fit for the neighborhood and shares our values as much as possible.

## Giving Campaign Questions

**Q: What is a giving campaign?**

A: A giving campaign is an effective tool God has used in the past to inspire us to grow spiritually and expand the church's facilities physically. These giving campaigns have resulted in seasons of phenomenal growth and joy. A giving campaign at Hope always includes intensive prayer and Bible study; cheerful and faithful giving; intentional fellowship; and inspirational worship. It's a good time to be the church! (1 Corinthians 13:13; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 9:7; Luke 12:33-34, 48)

**Q: Are we doing this giving campaign because we are in some kind of trouble financially?**

A: No. And, the leadership at Hope is not going to sound a false alarm as a fundraising gimmick to try and get you to give more. Financially, Hope Des Moines is doing well, praise God! We meet the budgetary goals, pay our bills and compensate staff fairly (based on a



salary survey of thousands of churches). Large projects like this require giving above and beyond general fund giving so as to not sacrifice the ongoing ministry of the church.

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

A: Our experience at Hope 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 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 2 a Hope Beyond, you'll simply will 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: Does Hope Des Moines receive any funding from Hope West Des Moines?**

A: No. Since early on in our history, Hope Des Moines has been financially sustainable and independent as a campus in our general fund and building projects.

**Q: Can I still give towards Building 2 a Hope Beyond for Hope Des Moines if I worship at another Hope campus?**

A: Absolutely. Wherever you worship, you can indicate Building 2 a Hope Beyond OR Des Moines campus building fund on a check or through online giving at [hopedesmoines.org/give](http://hopedesmoines.org/give).

**Q: Do all of the opportunities to give to Hope through various assets apply to the Des Moines campus building fund?**

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

**Q: How many volunteers will it take to make this giving campaign work? How can I get involved?**

A: A campaign leadership team of approximately 50 volunteers just like you kicked off this campaign in Fall 2019 and continues to work behind the scenes with various aspects of the project, including vision, strategy, budgeting, design, neighborhood research, open house-style events, and communication. They are all volunteers, just like you that are passionate about what God is doing at Hope!

In addition, similar to our first building project, there will be many ways to get involved in the remodel of the new facility including workdays, projects, design, among many other volunteer opportunities. Stay tuned!

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

A: The current campaign called "Building 2 a Hope Beyond" is three years, having started in January 2019 and concluding December of 2021. 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 of Building 2 a Hope Beyond.

**1. Neighborhood Open Houses:** As the campaign kicked off, the congregation was invited to a Neighborhood Open House. Over the next couple years, we will provide another opportunity to experience this. Now, before you run away screaming, rest assured these have nothing to do with making a sales pitch. Neighborhood Open House hosts and Building 2 a Hope Beyond volunteers are not allowed to ask for money, or even talk about how much a person should give during a home visit.

During Building 2 a Hope Beyond, we want to provide opportunities for you to get together with other people from Hope! We'll invite you to come to an Open House hosted by someone from Hope Des Moines

who lives relatively close to you. You'll meet people from your neighborhood who are part of your church, and you may or may not have even known it! 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 Building 2 a Hope Beyond 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. Building 2 a Hope Beyond 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. You'll be hearing much more about this most important stage of the process as we go!

**3. Building 2 A Hope Beyond Offering:** Although you may give at any time, each November, we'll thank God for Hope, and we'll give offerings to him with thankful and joy-filled hearts, responding to his call through a one-time special offering, continuing a current commitment, and/or beginning a new commitment until 2021.

**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 called Building 2 a Hope Beyond 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, and they won't happen unless we set aside several weeks to get it done.

**Q: What's the significance of the giving campaign theme: Building 2 a Hope Beyond?**

A: There's a song we sing at worship called "Overcome." It begins with these lyrics: "Now the darkness fades, into new beginnings, as we lift our eyes to a hope beyond."

Think about what that means for you? A hope beyond what? Your current realities? Your generation? Your life? All of the above?

Paul prays for the Ephesians this way: Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21 Any time there's a giving campaign, part of what we are asking you to do is think beyond yourself. Sure, there will be benefits to what we build that you will enjoy. But the hope is that what we build will outlast us. What we build will make a difference and leave an impact on lives beyond our generation. Each generation should set its hope anew on God. Psalm 78:7. It's exciting to think of the stories we will hear from people in five, 10, even 50 years from now who say, "I'm so glad someone was thinking of us many years ago!"

Building 2 a Hope Beyond is a God thing, a holy cause and the opportunity of our lifetime to let God build his church through us! Connecting you to the clear vision God has provided for Hope is the purpose of this campaign. We want you to see the vision for Hope, and then pray about what God might want to do through you to accomplish his will for this church.

So Building 2 a Hope Beyond is more than just a title ... it's who God wants us to be as a campus of Lutheran Church of Hope: a church that reaches out beyond the walls of this building and shares the everlasting love of Jesus Christ to current and future generations.

**Q: Is a goal of \$1-1.6 million over three years realistic for our campus?**

A: Five years ago, we were half the size as a church that we are now, and the giving campaign total was just over \$830,000. In 2013, the annual budget was \$246,000. At the September annual meeting we approved a \$582,000 budget. So we've more than doubled our general fund giving. To date, current gifts or pledges to the campaign total \$1,152,203.00. With continued growth and a lot of prayer, we believe we can still arrive at our "Miracle" goal of \$1.6 million during this campaign. Still, we know it's a matter of faith. The numbers don't make a lot of sense apart from faith. However, we have grown "deeper and wider" over the past five years. As we mature in faith, we generally give more. Additionally, there are about twice as many people at Hope Des Moines as there were five years ago. With God, all things are possible (Luke 1:37)!

**Q: That's great, you're supposed to have faith. But seriously, what happens if we don't reach the Miracle Goal?**

A: We feel confident that we'll be able to continue a growing, thriving mission in the city with current gifts and pledges to date, as well as do many of the much-needed upgrades to the new facility. The congregation has approved a remodel budget of \$750,000.00 which we currently have available. However, increasing campaign giving will allow us to save tens of thousands of dollars in interest on our current loan, freeing up thousands of dollars from our general fund that could be used for outreach, not to mention building a foundation for future campaigns and upgrades to the facility.

**Q: What about our regular offerings? Do we stop giving those so we can give to the Building 2 a Hope Beyond fund?**

A: Only if God directs you to do that. But, the ongoing ministries of this church need to be funded in order to go on, so please prayerfully consider your giving to the general fund of the church in addition to and separate from the new Building 2 a Hope Beyond fund. We don't want to sacrifice one fund for the sake of another.

**Q: Could any of the money I give to Building 2 a Hope Beyond 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 2 a Hope Beyond will go to the fund you have designated. None of what you give to Building 2 a Hope Beyond can ever be used for general fund ministry expenses.

**Q: How do I make my offering to Building 2 a Hope Beyond?**

A: We're asking you to pray about giving in one or two ways – a one-time cash offering and/or a two-year financial commitment to be given in weekly or monthly payments. Then, add those two offerings together on the Commitment Card and bring to worship any weekend. Gifts may also be made online at [hopedesmoines.org](http://hopedesmoines.org), 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@hopedesmoines.org](mailto:info@hopedesmoines.org).

**Q: Why are children 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 each week of the campaign and they'll be invited to participate in the processional offering with the entire congregation the Commitment Weekend. Just like the grown-ups, this is a guilt-free, pressure-free opportunity.

**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 Peace University 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. We'll be looking for all kinds of volunteer help if we're able to renovate the building, so contact us and let us know how you'd like to help!

**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 Building 2 a Hope Beyond 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 #1: PRAY.** Ask God this simple question: "What do you want to do through me to accomplish your will for this church?"

**STEP #2: 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 #3: 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!



**Des Moines**

---

**[hopedesmoines.org](http://hopedesmoines.org)**