

Campaign Messenger

Together We Build, Mission Fulfilled Campaign

Issue 1 May 21, 2017

Campaign Announced

We are pleased to announce the launching of a very special campaign effort for the benefit of Federated Church. It's entitled the *"Together We Build, Mission Fulfilled Campaign"* and has as its aim, raising the funds need to build affordable housing for our community.

Our minimum goal is \$400,000 which will enable us to tear down the existing building and break ground on our entire project.

The campaign will officially commence with a special "Kick-Off Celebration" scheduled for Sunday, June 4th and will culminate on Sunday, September 10th – Commitment Weekend – when members will be asked to make their campaign gift commitments.

The pages that follow provide additional details about our needs, our plans and our campaign.

Through the prayerful, volunteer and financial support of many, we will succeed in our task and, in so



doing, will help to make Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church an even more special and spectacular place to go and to grow in God's name.

Campaign Leadership Enlisted

Our campaign leadership cabinet is now in place. This critical core group of leaders will give guidance and drive the overall campaign.

Serving as Chairpersons of this special effort are Kevin & Trina Weekes and Gary & Renee McCall, who will assume primary responsibility for the Advance Gifts Committee and phase of the campaign and Edna Humphrey and Paula Bouknight who will oversee the Community Gifts Committee and phase.

In addition, we have also been blessed with an excellent supporting cast who are tasked with leadership of the various support committees needed. They are Viola Hunter, who will lead our Prayer Committee; George & Margie Morris, who will lead our committee for Hospitality; Minister Eleanor Chalmus, who will lead our committee for Youth and Children's Gifts; Beverly Brown-Carter, who will lead our Communications Committee; and Lamar & Natalie Caruthers, who will lead our Creative Giving Committee.

volunteers that will be visiting a select group of members in advance of Commitment Weekend and inviting them to consider their gifts. Serving on the Advance Gifts Team so far are: Renee Johnson, Willie Clark, Janice Knight, Dennis Montgomery, and Cynthia Byner.

Many more leaders and workers are also needed to help with this important effort, so please say "yes" to volunteering when you are asked, or call the Campaign Office at 617-427-0905 to say that you'll happily help!



Finally, we also blessed to already have the following people step up and agree to serve on our Advance Gifts Team...the group of

Our Needs

Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church's mission is to show love to a hurting world and to bring good news to the poor. Our members have a strong faith in Jesus Christ and strive to help our community in every way they can. The community and families in the Greater Dorchester area are in a state of crisis. The lack of resources has fallen hard on families creating a cycle of poverty and unemployment.

Lack of development in the community.

The church has envisioned having an affordable family life center that will house the needy who can't afford public living. The community needs a friendly, clean building that will not only be attractive on the outside but safe for those who reside there.

35% of the community in Dorchester is below poverty level and

can't afford to pay rent.

Boston needs to build 53,000 housing units by 2030 to keep pace with the rapid population growth that is already increasing price and squeezing low and middle income residents out, according to a city report from the Boston Globe. The city's population is expected to jump by 15% to 709,000 people according to the report. That would be Boston's highest growth level since the 1950s when numbers of people left the city for surrounding suburbs.

Provide affordable housing for our community.

The cost of housing in Dorchester is very high. The average rental price for a two-bedroom apartment is \$2500 per month. The median household income is around \$30,000 per year. Families are working two jobs just to pay rent and make ends meet.

We need the families in our community to be able to live and grow in an affordable housing program to help enrich their lives.

According to the Boston Globe, much of Massachusetts is in the midst of an affordable housing shortage that shows few signs of abating. The rate of new housing

in Massachusetts is amongst the lowest in the country. and luxury apartments in the booming downtown area and beyond is expected to make up the vast majority of new housing being built in Boston in the next three years. Many of our neighbors spend at least half of their household income on rent, which is considerable higher than the one third recommended by a specialist. Housing subsidies have been slashed, shelters are over capacity, and the homeless population is increasing faster than any other state in the country, according to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Grants

In order to make our dreams a reality, we need grants and donations from outside sources to help fund our project. We do not have sufficient capital in our weekly contributions to fully fund this project. The need and passion for this project is within the church, but the finances aren't. We need funds to hire a firm to help us through the process of researching and applying for grants.

*God calls us
to care for,
cultivate, and
improve all that
He has entrusted to us.
This is what it means to
be a good steward of all
of God's gifts.*

Our Plans

For years, Pleasant Hill Church has wanted to help the community in a way that will support and foster families through affordable housing and community outreach. We have the space and opportunity to not only build a housing community, but to build for the future of our city. The Nehemiah Housing Development is designed to create and maintain diversified housing that is accessible, affordable and energy efficient for residents of the Boston community.

In the Fall of 2016, we conducted a feasibility study which involved an actively engaged process of reaching out to stakeholders in the church. The feasibility study included interviews and focus groups which consisted of adults and youth. It concluded with overall consensus which is to implement a strategic fundraising effort which includes grant research and writing, the creation of a capital campaign, donor identification, cultivation and recognition, and annual appeals. Essentially, our plans are to:

Create safe, quality, and affordable housing opportunities, through a new affordable housing unit that will consist of eight, two-bedroom apartments.

Maximize collaborations with the

city and other partners to capture and deploy funds.

Demolish the Building

The building owned by the church located to the south of the sanctuary needs to be demolished. It's old, worn down and unrepairable. It's an eye sore for the community and will be the first step to achieving our dreams. We estimate that the cost of this will be \$125,000.

When we tear it down, we will be able to start from scratch with our vision and future.

Nehemiah Housing Development

The affordable housing project will be the ultimate goal of our campaign. We plan to build – eight, two-bedroom apartments with kitchens and bathrooms in each. The family will be required to pay rent, but at a minimum cost compared to the overall housing market.

The Nehemiah Housing Development seeks to provide direct economic benefits to the local community like revitalizing distressed areas and providing social integration directly impacting families. Several studies show the impact on families: “Families burdened with high housing costs can't spend as much money on

food, health care and other necessities.”

“Households with modest means need safe, suitable housing that they can afford. When housing is affordable, low and moderate income families are able to put nutritious food on the table, receive necessary medical care, and provide reliable daycare for their children. Research has shown that the stability of an affordable mortgage or rent can have profound effects on childhood development and school performance and can improve health outcomes for families and individuals (Lubell, Crain, and Cohen 2007).”

A management company will manage the property and current members of the church will have high priority of occupancy.

There will be certain criteria that the residence will have to meet to qualify for the housing.

Further, we plan to use some of the funds raised in this campaign to hire a firm to help us through the grant research, writing and application process. The amount of funds needed for this and the amount we need to receive through grants will be based on the overall success of the campaign.

How You Can Help

In preparation for this important event, we ask that you do three things:

1 **Pray**

Please **pray** for our volunteers, staff, and for all members of our church community. **Pray** for our campaign's success. Our future depends on your prayers.



2 **Volunteer**

Please **volunteer** your time to the campaign effort. Over 40 volunteers will be needed to assure that the campaign runs as efficiently and effectively as possible and that the job of volunteering is a relatively easy and enjoyable experience for everyone.



3 **Invest**

Please prayerfully consider a **generous financial investment** in our campaign when asked. Long-term subscriptions—pledges payable over three years in addition to your annual stewardship offerings—are encouraged and essential to meeting our needs.

Your support will ensure our campaign's and our church community's future success!



"Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, ready to share, thus accumulating as treasure a good foundation for the future, so as to win the life that is true life."

1 Timothy 6:18-19

What in God's Name is Going on Here?



Hear, Here

Join Us for Our

Campaign Kick-Off Celebration

Rejoice & Renew

Sunday, June 4

At 2:00 pm. in the church

Enjoy fine food and fellowship with other members. Listen to inspirational talks.

View our newly produced campaign brochure and video and learn first-hand of our needs, our hopes, and our dreams.

You'll hear it all here.

Please plan to attend and discover what in God's name is going on here.