



2025-2028 Capital Investment Campaign

LETTERS FROM THE CAMPAIGN LEADERS

Grace Avenue has been our home for over 20 years. When we first joined, the Sanctuary building had just opened, and our oldest child was not yet one year old. Since getting married, we had looked around a lot but never found a church that resonated with both of us. Grace Avenue immediately gave us a sense of welcome and belonging.

As a young family, Grace Avenue offered numerous opportunities and a strong focus on kids and youth. It played a significant role in our development as adults, parents, and Christians. As our children grew, Grace Avenue provided a place for them to develop their beliefs.

This is the place and the community that helped us raise our kids, even when we weren't as financially stable and couldn't contribute as much. It challenged us to grow as adults. Throughout the many events of the past 20+ years, Grace Avenue has always been there for us and anyone else seeking a place to belong.

Now that we are older and on better financial footing, we want to give back to those who are in the same position we once were. We also want to continue supporting the great work and opportunities this church provides for everyone who needs a place to belong: "A Church for ALL."

Amy & Mike Maxwell

"A Church for ALL" Campaign Chairs



We are the Triefenbach family and are proud members of Grace Avenue Methodist Church. Katy & Jeremy both grew up in middle class Catholic households in St. Louis where church was a requirement, rather than a place of joy. Many experiences were negative and led to a great deal of mistrust and like many kids of our day we rebelled against the church. As we became adults, we ultimately left the church.

After 10 years of working and moving around the world, we finally settled down and had 4 wonderful children. While watching our children grow, we realized how many strong positive experiences we as a family were missing out on by not being part of a faith based community. This realization led us on a mission to find a church home for our young family.

Once we decided to act, we started our search for a new spiritual home. After attending several different services at various denominations, we found ourselves becoming wary that we would not find our church. Our final visit was to Grace Avenue.

Our first service was an amazing experience. In addition to the welcoming we and our 4 children received, we were excited (and a bit surprised) to hear the community values statement that started the service. We as a family share these same values and want to fill our lives with like-minded people.

It was simple, Grace Avenue is like nothing else we have seen in our journey, and now Grace Avenue has become our home. We believe it is where we will build community, establish strong values for our children, make lifelong friends, and continue our path in becoming good Christians.

As we learn more about the role Grace Avenue plays in our community, it is even more important than ever to support and grow our efforts and ensure everyone can find a spiritual home. As we know, the dramatic cutbacks in government spending which impact the most vulnerable, call us as community leaders to lean in more. Our family hears the calling and are stepping up with both a financial contribution and a time commitment for the new "A Church For ALL" campaign. We hope others will join us and learn about Grace Avenue's exciting plans for the future.

Jeremy & Katy Triefenbach

"A Church for ALL" Campaign Chairs

PURPOSE STATEMENT

In the spring of 2025, Grace Avenue UMC is launching a three-year Capital Investment Campaign called "A Church for ALL." The campaign seeks to embody Grace Avenue's mission of

"ERADICATING HOMELESSNESS IN WHATEVER FORM IT PRESENTS ITSELF,"

and follow through on the 2022 Strategic Plan, "Grace Upon Grace." The campaign will be established on three pillars – **Hope, Accessibility, and Transformation**. Focusing on these three pillars, we will raise funds over and above operational giving to expand our current programs and enhance our church facilities to ensure that every person has access to our ministries regardless of ability, background, or life circumstance.



HOPE

This pillar of the campaign focuses on people's hopes and dreams for our church over the next three years. A major emphasis will be placed on how we provide greater spiritual, emotional, and physical access to people across our mission field. We want to design plans to reach people who have given up hope on finding a church that might address their spiritual, emotional, or physical needs.

"Hope is where joy meets the struggle."

-Parker Palmer



ACCESSIBILITY

This pillar of the campaign attempts to lay out specific plans regarding where we will invest our time, energy, and resources. To do this, there will need to be assessments done across our ministries, but especially as it relates to our physical facilities. Some of these plans will include an assessment of what has and has not yet been accomplished in the 29 initiatives laid out in the "Grace Upon Grace" Strategic Plan.

Spiritual

- Creation of new multisite community
- Design and development of a columbarium

Emotional

- Establishment of a special needs ministry
- Next steps for A Center of Grace

Physical

- Greater physical accommodations for our facilities inside and out
- Purchase and installation of Solar Energy Producing Equipment
- Expansion of Building the Bridges nonprofit
- Facility debt service and reduction

FlexStep

These images show how the FlexStep works in action. When not in use, they are a staircase as shown on the left. When needed to lift the user, a push of a button flattens the stairs to the ground for the user to step on, then another button lifts the platform up onto the higher level.



Columbarium

We will start with one columbarium centered between the existing posts and add more on either side as needed. The columns will create an alcove under the eave where you will be able to sit and spend time in reflection. This will create a hallway that will be adorned with a mosaic art piece and lead you toward the existing prayer room.



Curb Cuts

Curb cuts will be made in our existing outdoor sidewalks to create ramps for smoother and more permanent access up onto the sidewalk/ This will provide easier access and better entry into our worship spaces.



Special Needs Ministry

The development of a special needs ministry is an essential component of creating a church that is accessible to all people. It goes beyond simply making accommodations; it involves creating a space where everyone, regardless of ability, can engage with their faith, form relationships, and grow spiritually.



Solar Panels

Placing solar panels across the roof of the building will allow us not only to save on energy costs, but create a more sustainable energy source and contribute to a future that is more accessible for generations to come.





TRANSFORMATION

This third pillar is where the campaign plays out over the next three years as we implement and monitor the progress of the accessibility initiatives. A special emphasis will be placed on regular updates of the progress on certain projects, but more importantly, telling the story of how these changes are transforming lives. It is important to remember that these accessibility projects will happen throughout the three years of "A Church for ALL." None of them will begin until after we begin receiving regular contributions after June 1, 2025. We also are reminded that the work of the Holy Spirit will often lead us to refine and modify some of these projects. Our ultimate goal is to see lives transformed as we strive daily to be "A Church for ALL."

Transformation is an ongoing process that tends to appear ordinary, when, in fact, something extraordinary is taking place.

- Suzy Ross



COST BREAKDOWN

In the Grace Upon Grace campaign, we pledged just over \$ 2,000,000. Our goal in the "A Church for ALL" campaign is to surpass that by raising:

\$2,250,000

The proceeds of the three-year gifts in this campaign will be distributed into four different categories. They are as follows:

\$1,200,000

THE GRACE AVENUE HOME FUND

This fund helps to reduce debt and service debt on our current buildings. It also creates a Maintenance Reserve account for major repair to our buildings over the next three years.

\$250,000

THE SPIRITUAL ACCESSIBILITY FUND

This will fund the Columbarium project and provide seed money for a new multisite ministry.

\$150,000

THE EMOTIONAL ACCESSIBILITY FUND

This will provide seed money for an Intentional Special Needs Ministry and continued focus on mental health.

\$650,000

THE PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY FUND

This will fund the lifts, the curb cuts, and the solar energy project.



Every gift to the "A Church for ALL" campaign will be divided proportionally among these four funds. Consideration will be given to any major gift that might be given to a particular fund or project in its entirety.

Do not let the details of the campaign, the structure of the finances, or the influx of information distract from doing the work of the heart. Let's join together and answer the call that God has placed on us to ensure that Grace Avenue is "A Church for ALL."

IN THE COMING WEEKS, WE ASK YOU TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

Pray

All generosity is grounded in gratitude and revealed in prayer. Begin praying "God, what do you want to do through me?" throughout your day.

Engage

Participate in opportunities to engage with your church as we gather, learn, and serve together. Plan to attend one of the Informational Gatherings listed below and mark your calendars for Commitment Sunday:

- March 30 – Informational Gathering
- April 3 – Informational Gathering
- April 7 – Informational Gathering
- May 4 – Commitment Sunday

Respond

We are asking that you boldly and sacrificially respond to how God is calling us as we look toward the future of our church and our community. Every circumstance is different. God does not call us to equal gifts, but to equal sacrifice. Every dollar will support Grace Avenue's work. Only God can lead you to the commitment that makes sense for you.

