

Dear Church –

It's no secret that we don't seek to play church, or make what we do simply about us. We believe that what Jesus said matters... that we need to continually look for opportunities to move beyond "just us" and live in redemptive "justice." We are here for a reason – to become fully-alive Christ-followers who reach out and redemptively love all people into a deeper connection with God.

I like how Patrick Campbell puts it – Christianity isn't about staying in "basic training" or "boot camp" and never getting out onto the battlefield, although that's what the American church seems to prefer. We have an opportunity to make a real difference.

This is why on the page that follows we're talking about one of the next steps we need to take forward as a church. It's a risk sharing this, because you may be tempted to view this like many people do the local elections. You may think, "Nah, that doesn't affect me. I won't do it." In reality, everything that happens to everybody eventually affects everybody in everything. So consider how this impacts someone you care about.

We have three needs and opportunities:

- **Classroom space:** We are finding that the current classroom sizes don't seem to keep up with our growing needs, and we are already one short.
- **Relational space:** The hallway is consistently crowded, which tends to inspire people to leave versus stay. We're looking to create a relational area, such as a café, to hang out in and provide medium-sized meeting space for Teen Connection and other classes to gather in (not to mention, serve our community).
- **Meeting space:** We have had weeks where we're rubbing shoulders and feeling cozy. Hopefully that trend continues, so let's stay ahead of it and not discourage people from thinking there is no room for them.

The plan is as follows:

- **In the short-term:** We will work out an arrangement with a neighboring space that the Junior Teens (grades 7-8) will utilize. This will free up the front (former Tween) room for grades 3-4, and allow the Tweens to meet in the room behind the Welcome Center. This offers a good band-aid solution for the moment.
- **In the long-term:** We will head into an smart expansion project to create better classroom space, relational space, and meeting space. This is to be a debt-free endeavor, which will utilize the best option available to us when we raise the funds needed. It could involve either the space next door somehow or the space in front of us. Again, that will be determined by God's lead and by the steps that the current tenants take during our financial campaign.

Thanks for your prayers and participation in what God is doing. We are coming into a new season in the church, so let's enter it correctly. Let's hear what God is saying! Let's ADVANCE God's Vision to the next phase in ways that give Him all the glory!

Together,
Tony Myles, Lead Pastor of Connection Church



connection church

Our goal this year is to “make the most of every opportunity” to ADVANCE God’s vision.

That includes raising our faith, which practically means each of us using the financial resources God’s given us to manage as a part of this. To increase our relational and meeting spaces, and maximize what can happen in them, we aim to raise \$15,000 in 3-three month increments, which over nine months will provide \$45,000 of debt-free finances toward expansion. We are doing this to more effectively reach out and redemptively love all people into a deeper connection with God.

TABLE OF GIVING TO HELP DECIDE YOUR FAITHFUL GIFT

As stated above the first step is to raise \$15,000 over the next 3 months

TO ACHIEVE THIS FIRST STEP WE WILL NEED GIFTS LIKE THE FOLLOWING:

			Approx.	Approx.
1	Gift of	\$1,500	\$500/mo	\$115/wk
1	Gift of	1,200	400/mo	90/wk
2	Gifts of	900	300/mo	70/wk
5	Gifts of	600	200/mo	45/wk
5	Gifts of	450	150/mo	35/wk
7	Gifts of	300	100/mo	25/wk
9	Gifts of	150	50/mo	12/wk
10	Gifts of	120	40/mo	10/wk
10	Gifts of	60	20/mo	5/wk

**** This assumes 50 giving units only. Obviously we number more than that.....but it is a conservative place to start.**

Study this table carefully, but use more than your mind and financial background. First, *feel* the need in your heart that God has given us to reach more people than “just us” with the Good News. Settling for status quo or putting a lid on what God wants to do through us is simply not an option.

Next, begin to consider the part you will have in us collectively moving forward. Families may want to pledge as a unit. Other times, individual commitments are made. It is imperative that every member of our church gives out of the highest level of faith possible. Every gift is needed, although gifts like the amounts indicated above must be made to assure victory. If we do our 100%, God is more freed up to do His 100%. Let’s dare Him to be the Lord by first daring each other to BE the Church!



Note: These funds would be used for no other purpose, unless we were in a worst-case scenario fall behind three months behind in our current rent. If we remain faithful to tithing, however, this should not even become a problem. Let’s do our best to consider how the steps we take today impact countless others in the years to come.