

Why does IUCC need new buildings and grounds?

In 2012, IUCC recognized the limitations of our aging campus and began an intentional planning process to envision a new church campus. Our spiritual home has an aging infrastructure. Buildings are showing their age, needing repairs and aren't meeting the current needs of this active church, let alone our future needs.

Concerned and progressive, we are committed to improving the human condition locally and throughout the world but our campus constrains our ability to do so. On any given Sunday, we scramble to find space to accommodate: new members classes, our youth, special events, interfaith, ecumenical and educational programming – not to mention our many active and dedicated ministries and committees, who need space to plan service and advocacy projects or conduct church business. There's no place to offer sanctuary or house homeless families. Our preschool facility is outdated. Valued employees who have served IUCC for decades are squeezed into crowded workspace and there is a lack of confidential counseling space for our pastoral staff.

What is the IUCC master plan?

In November 2013, the IUCC congregation unanimously approved the development of a master plan that envisioned new buildings and grounds. In developing the master plan, IUCC's Building Task Force worked closely with domusstudios architecture, a well-respected San Diego-based firm with extensive experience in religious and educational projects. The resulting plan, developed with green practices, provides for a flexible three phase build-out. In December 2015, the City of Irvine approved our master plan, paving the way for IUCC to vote in January 2016 to undertake a capital campaign to fund the first phase.

What will be accomplished during phase I?

- An administrative building will be built immediately adjacent and connected to the current sanctuary, including: a lobby, staff offices, volunteer work space, private pastoral counseling accommodations, and four configurable meeting rooms (with a total capacity of 100 people)
- When church offices are moved into the new building, our preschool, the Early Childhood Center, will be able to expand into the former church office, giving them much needed additional space
- An expanded narthex with a new coffee corner and new entrance
- An enhanced patio for fellowship
- A widened driveway with a dedicated right turn lane entry
- A welcoming new church frontage

What will be accomplished in subsequent phases?

The IUCC congregation will decide when it is ready to undertake fundraising for the next two phases. The next two phases will include a modern preschool/education center and a multi-use and highly configurable fellowship hall. For more information on the details of future phases, please visit www.iucc.org/documents.

What is the *Embracing the Future* Campaign?

In February 2016, IUCC launched a 19-week campaign to raise funds to build the master plan's first phase. This campaign is about honoring our legacy and embracing a shared vision to become the church we are intended to be. Our campaign theme and logo represent both the path that brought us here and a future that is still unfolding. We embrace the future just as we embrace all those who walk through our doors, declaring that "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." And, if this logo seems familiar, we invite you to lift your eyes to IUCC's iconic stained glass window.

What is the fundraising goal for the *Embracing the Future* campaign?

To meet the at least \$2 million project costs for phase I, the fundraising goal for our *Embracing the Future* campaign is at least \$1.5 million, with a stretch goal of \$2 million to help mitigate the financial burden of new debt to meet the remaining project costs. Each of the 3 phases of the master plan was designed to cost approximately \$2 million (without accounting for inflation or possible design modifications). The design approach was practical, economical and green-friendly, focusing on creating useful space, not frills or extras. To help assess probable costs for phase I, our architects sent the project out for a preliminary bid. Including construction, architectural fees, permitting and contingency, this very preliminary bid came back at \$2.3 million.

Why do we think we can raise \$1.5 - \$2 million dollars?

In 2012, when IUCC began to consider improvements to our existing church campus, we sought the counsel of the United Church of Christ's Capital Campaign Services. Since then, we've worked with the Rev. Priscilla Bizer, Capital Fundraising Executive, to prepare for a possible campaign. In September 2015, Rev. Bizer conducted a mini feasibility study for us, determining that we had a "high probability" of success, a sure sign that the congregation could proceed with a \$1.5 million capital campaign, moving forward with confidence. In subsequent discussions, she endorsed the establishment of a second "stretch" goal (\$2 million), in recognition of our desire to mitigate as much as possible the burdens of financing.

When can we expect to begin construction?

If our *Embracing the Future* campaign is successful, we could vote to proceed with construction planning at the Spring Congregational Meeting in May, 2016. At that time, a new building task force will be appointed to oversee the project. We've been advised that from the time we decide to move forward with building (May 2016?), it will be 6-9 months for planning/permitting/bidding and 18-24 months to occupancy (from the original decision date). So, if there is an affirmative vote in May, we can anticipate breaking ground in early 2017 and occupancy in 2018.

What is the present financial status of IUCC?

IUCC is financially sound. Our annual stewardship supports staff salaries and funds our active ministries and committees. Our preschool, the Early Childhood Center, is thriving, with excellent enrollment and parent satisfaction. The church carries a modest loan (~\$160,000), which we anticipate will be rolled into the new financing for phase I.

What if I am worried about making a campaign gift on top of my annual stewardship?

Rev. Bizer reminds us that funding IUCC's existing programs is always the first priority. So, stewardship needs to remain strong. She also reminds us that capital campaign commitments typically are made from accumulated assets while stewardship comes from annual income. Via forums and distributed information, congregants can learn about the many options for giving a generous gift to the campaign. IUCC members should be thinking about campaign commitments of at least 3-4x their annual gifts, while still meeting their annual stewardship pledge.

How long will I have to meet my pledge?

All pledges toward the *Embracing the Future* campaign should be received by June 24. Pledges can be paid over a 3-year period.

Will my pledge to the capital campaign be confidential?

Absolutely – just as it is with stewardship pledges.

Will there be opportunities for naming and memorial gifts?

Yes – there will be a variety of opportunities to honor a loved one or respected member of the IUCC family.