

embracing the future

Why Give

On any given Sunday here at IUCC, Pastor Paul preaches about caring for the least among us. Our dedicated ministries meet to plan for important advocacy and service. Our youth come together to explore their own faiths and beliefs. We study the Bible wanting to be spiritually enriched as we learn from wise Progressive Christian scholars. We gather together in meaningful fellowship. We are a vibrant and thriving faith community. But, what does our church campus reflect about us?

If you walk around campus on a typical Sunday, here's what you are likely to observe:

- A ministry crammed into our small and crowded library trying to have a meeting with frequent interruptions. Another group meeting in Plumer Hall with raised voices so they can be heard over the sound of dishwashing in the kitchen. A group of potential new members perched on teeny tiny preschool chairs in the Early Childhood Center.
- Some of our senior members leaving quietly after service. They would very much enjoy coffee hour but they can't stand too long and can't find a seat.
- Despite our passionate belief in offering an extravagant welcome, we are a well kept secret on Alton Parkway. Once on campus, only a long-standing member would know how to find the church office.
- A crowded workspace for valued employees who have served IUCC for decades.
- The lack of confidential counseling space for our pastoral staff.
- Looking more closely, you would also observe there is no private place for a parent and teacher to have a confidential conversation about a child enrolled in our childcare center.

The good news is, our plans for the phase I capital campaign address all of these issues. In the first phase, we will:

Strengthen our bonds with each other by

Providing space for small group ministry meetings, so our ministries of peace and justice, service and mission, comma groups, prayer shawl, young adults, bible study and more can meet, think, learn and work together.

Room for spiritual counseling – we will have dedicated private space for all those in need of confidential conversations. The intimate work of building community through pastoral care, allowing ministry to our own community when in crisis or in need, will have a place to meet without interruption.

Ample seating on the patio, so everyone, no matter what age or physical condition, can enjoy the company of each other at coffee hour.

Small group ministries will have room for privacy to meet, to connect, to minister to one another like our Stephen Ministry.

We will have *private space for our childcare center teachers* to speak with parents about their children. Privacy can make a positive impact on a parent's ability to hear and absorb important information, in discussing their concerns without being overheard. This could make all the difference in the life of a child who is part of our childcare center ministry.

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Strengthen the bonds with our community by

Welcome a family seeking refuge from violence.

A spiritual home for all in need. Just as any home needs repairs, our spiritual home has aging infrastructure. It needs maintenance, repair and renovation. A building in good order provides stability and a sense of peace and calm.

An *exuberant welcome* to the community with beautiful frontage on Alton Parkway, featuring our voice and mission through Micah 6:8: "And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" We believe that the community needs our voice, welcoming all to find peace, joy, and acceptance. We know that many in the community are without a spiritual home, in this time of unrest. We know many would find a home in our progressive, inclusive Christianity – if only they could find us.

"Never place a period where God has placed a comma." Our new campus is a living expression of our belief that God is still speaking: we are expanding an oasis of Progressive Christianity for Orange County and beyond, dedicated to serving our neighbors and sharing our message of extravagant welcome, hospitality and love.

Our IUCC campus is here for us because those who gathered here some decades ago envisioned, and provided for, the progressive community of faith that nourishes us today. We feel their touch. Our success is a fulfillment of their vision.

Today we are proud to see IUCC stand proudly as a place of sanctuary, a place of social action, and a place above all where all are welcome.

Join us in supporting a capital campaign that will advance what we are today, and will provide our legacy for the future!

-Keith and Renae Boyum