



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why did we choose this project, and why is now the right time?

A: For more than a decade, our Pastors and Elders sensed a call to share the Gospel with our neighbors in Stamford. A search for space where we could gather for worship and Christian community ensued. We began worship services in 2016 in a rented boxing gym while we continued to look for more adequate space. Meanwhile, the emerging congregation outgrew the gym with 100+ worshippers each Sunday before Covid shut us down. Throughout the pandemic, we continued our search for a permanent home for Stanwich in Stamford until the Lord provided an ideal space in the heart of downtown in August 2021. Since we left the gym, our ministry to the people of Stamford has continued in various iterations and is ripe for launching a new congregation at 252 Atlantic Street.

Q: How much will it cost?

A: Our current budget estimates are very detailed and reflect a total project cost of \$21M, which includes the property purchase, design, engineering, and development of our building. To date, God has provided 60% of the funding, and we need close to \$9 million to complete construction.

Q: Why has the price increased since our initial 2021 estimate?

A: The original estimate for construction was a “back of the envelope” number from a builder unaware of the need for asbestos remediation and extensive demolition. Throughout a protracted price and contract negotiation, inflation increased dramatically, and along with supply chain issues, the overall cost of building materials rose by 26%. Structural deficiencies were revealed, and an architectural design was developed, bringing today’s cost for construction alone to \$390 per square foot. Engineering, architectural, consulting, and other soft costs added approximately \$80 per square foot.

Q: Do we have a Lump Sum Price?

A: Due to unexpected circumstances, including a change in our Architect of Record, we have experienced considerable delays in refining the pricing set of documents needed to achieve this goal. We are rapidly moving toward completing these drawings and expect a lump sum budget in the coming weeks.

Q: Who is leading the construction project?

A: We are blessed with a hard-working team of construction professionals, volunteer leaders, and church staff, including Wes Lyvers (Project Manager), Paul Hirsch (Owner’s Representative), Signature Construction (General Contractor), Ryan Salvatore (Architect), Joe DeCrescenzo (Buildings and Grounds Director), and Sheila Hyland (Executive Director).

Q: While the building is under construction, who is growing the “real church,” the people?

A: Pastors David Borden and Gina Hantz are building a core team of twenty church leaders and an ever-expanding Stamford congregation through Life Groups, worship events, UCONN gatherings, and other expressions of Christ-centered community.

Q: How will we raise the remaining funds?

A: So far, God has inspired much generosity for this project. With the advisement of “Generosity Evangelist” Allen Walworth, we are re-launching our capital campaign this winter with a goal to receive new gifts and pledges by summer 2024.

Q: Will debt be used to finance this project?

A: We intend to avoid taking on debt or limiting borrowing to a bridge loan to cover any short-term gap between project expenditures and pledge collections.

Q: Who will be asked to contribute?

A: The entire congregation and other interested parties will be invited to contribute to this project with the hope that everyone will experience the joy of participating in this kingdom-building moment. No gift would be too small or too large as each of us is able to contribute.

Q: Can I make a non-cash gift? If so, what is the process?

A: Yes. Gifts of securities can be coordinated with Sheila Hyland, Executive Director, to ensure that your gift is identified and proceeds are properly credited.

Q: Will my gift be confidential?

A: Yes. Our current financial process for managing gifts to the church will be used to maintain the confidentiality of pledges and gifts. Only the financial staff will be aware of your gift, and campaign reports about our progress will be in summary format only.

Q: If I want to talk to someone about pledging, who should I talk to?

A: If you would like to speak to someone about making a pledge or gift, please don't hesitate to contact Sheila Hyland or Senior Pastor Nathan Hart, who will be delighted to answer your questions.

Q: Will my gift be tax deductible?

A: Yes. You will receive a tax receipt for your gifts from the finance office at the end of the calendar year.

Q: Can I make my pledge online?

A: Yes. There is a link on the church's website, stanwichchurch.org/giving to donate confidentially to the Stamford Project.

Q: Will this campaign impact our operating budget?

A: The campaign is focused on raising funds beyond our regular tithes and offerings to avoid any negative impact on the church's current operating budget.