

GRAYS WOODS
Church

2023-2026 Capital Campaign

a proposal from the Elders of Grays Woods Church



Now to Him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us – to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations. *Ephesians 3:20-21*

Dear Friend,

We would first like to take a moment to thank you for your interest in learning more about the journey God has laid before us. We believe the Holy Spirit has chosen us to pursue a path forward so we can spread the love of God to those in our community and beyond through vibrant ministries.

You will find on the following pages a *reasoning, strategic outline, and proposal* on the path we believe God has chose for Grays Woods Church (GWC). Please take time to read, consider, and pray over this plan and how you can be a vital part of it.

Blessings in Christ,

The Elders of Grays Woods Church

Ryan Chesnut
Dave Hersh

Jay Regan
Buzz Roberts



About Us

Our History

In June of 2018 conversations began between leaders from Grace Hills Church and State College Christian Church. We were like-minded churches in similar situations with a strong spiritual affinity. After many discussions and prayer among elders, ministry leaders and the entirety of both congregations, we recognized what appeared to be a wide-open door for obeying Jesus' prayer for unity among His followers in a very practical and meaningful way. Throughout the exploration of a potential merger of the two churches, the consensus was, "if it's God's will, we want it." It soon became clear that God was leading us in that direction. Having gained confidence in God's apparent will for our churches, the decision to merge into Grays Woods Church was made on October 17, 2018.

Our Mission

Grays Woods Church is a Christ-centered community whose mission is to *love all in truth, partner in the Gospel, and grow in Christ*. Everything we do revolves around our vision to pursue authentic love, faithful service, and spiritual growth. We recognize this is our motivation in serving and sharing Jesus Christ. He's the Rock we continually stand upon. We want to see Jesus glorified in our church and the community around us. In Him alone is salvation, perfect love, and hope. Our church has a sharp and steady focus on *Jesus first*.

Our Footprint

GWC seeks to impact our community both inside and outside of the church. Within the church, GWC supports individuals and families through biblical teaching, sharing life transformation testimonies, discipling, and encouraging participation in church ministries and life groups. Within the community, GWC supports local and international ministries such as Common Food, Haven of Hope, Orphan Care Alliance, and Pregnancy Resource Clinic in addition to campus ministries at Penn State University. GWC also reaches out to our community through various initiatives such as community movie nights and Yard Angels.



Our Community

There is a mission field in our backyard.

GRAYS WOODS/PATTON TOWNSHIP

The community of Grays Woods has been in development for nearly 30 years. To date 556 single-family and multi-family homes have been built, with a total of 1,800 residential units planned within five neighborhood areas that include Graysdale, Marywood, Brynwood, Deerbrook, and Grays Pointe. The population of Patton Township, according to the latest census (2022) is 15,829.

STATE COLLEGE/PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

The Borough of State College has a population of 40,195 (2022) with a median age of 21.5. The University brings in over half of this population.



CENTRE COUNTY

According to the 2020 census, Centre County's population stands at 162,264 with a projected growth rate of 0.26% annually.

Our Desire

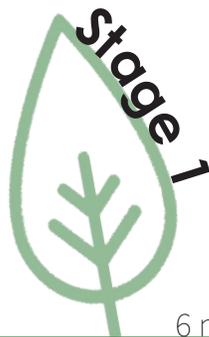
It has been our plea before the Lord to see our community transformed and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We are open in allowing God to “stretch us” in advancing His Kingdom. The Lord promises manifold blessing to and through those who support the advancement of His Kingdom. This is done with generous hearts and audacious faith (2 Cor. 9:7; Luke 6:38). Jesus taught in the Parable of the Talents (Matt. 25:14-30) that the more faithfully and generously we invest and multiply what He has given us, the more we see Him accomplish His will. Therefore, we are committed to follow Him in faith even when we don't yet clearly see the end results.



Moving Forward

Strategic Plan

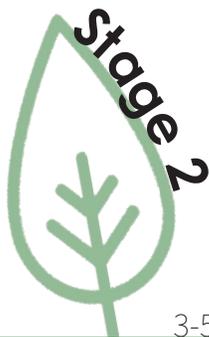
The GWC congregation and leadership are excited to be on this journey together and are trusting God to do great things in and through our church family. Below you will find a strategic plan mapped out by the GWC Elders after an abundance of prayer and inspiration from the Holy Spirit.



- Finish construction project of the church building at 939 Grays Woods Boulevard
- Move from provisional financial budget to more secure balanced budget
- Pray, plan, and participate in serving our community
- Analyze current use of the church facility (the building is in use 5 of 7 days per week)
- Develop and implement GWC 101 class
- Create opportunities for members to participate in local and national missions adventures
- Assess current needs, re-evaluate/set goals

6 months - 2 years

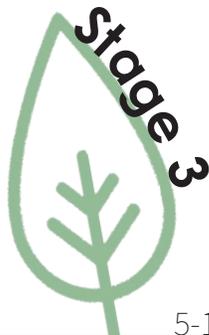
2020 - 2022



- Develop a spiritual formation and educational track for adults/children/youth
- Create a development track for teachers working with children and youth
- Eliminate mortgage on the church facility
- Finish downstairs for continued growth
- Hire strategic associate staff
- Secure funding for future expansion
- Assess current needs, re-evaluate/set goals

3-5 years

2023 - 2025



- Hire additional associate staff members for continued growth
- Assess current needs, re-evaluate/set goal

5-10 years

2025 - 2030



The Challenge Ahead

Your Input

Over the last several congregational meetings we informed the congregation of GWC's strategic plan in advancing the Kingdom and asked for your input regarding the opportunities before us. These included the completion of the basement and elevator, as well as purchase of the adjacent property. After careful consideration, the congregation made a positive motion to move forward with caution.



Storm Clouds

We see dark storm clouds forming on the horizon. The Federal Reserve increased their base interest rate eight times since June 2022. There are expectations that additional increases will be implemented in order to get inflation under control. Some financial experts are predicting increased inflation through 2024 or beyond.

GWC's finances are good. Offering contributions are up and we are paying the bills! When establishing the budget in acquiring the building, we did not plan to be in the black for the first two years. We believe we are good stewards with what the Lord has provided by creatively cutting costs and living within our means (Acts 27). God has truly honored our commitment to advance His Kingdom.

Here is where our concern lies: Our loan with Northumberland Savings Bank has an initial interest rate of 4.25%. This rate is set for five years, and is scheduled to be adjusted in January of 2026. According to the terms of the loan, the new interest rate is determined by taking the benchmark rate (i.e., FHLB 5 year amortizing fixed rate) and adding 3%. Using the most recent benchmark rate of 4.511% (as of 5/19/2023), that would mean the new interest rate would be 7.511%, a notable 3.25+ points higher than the current interest rate.

If we were to renew our mortgage payment with today's rates (current FHLB + promissory note) there would be an adjustment to our monthly payment from \$6,500.00 to \$8,876.48. *This increase in the interest rate would cost us an additional \$140,000+ to service the loan for five more years.* This does not reflect any additional base rate hikes The Federal Reserve is considering.



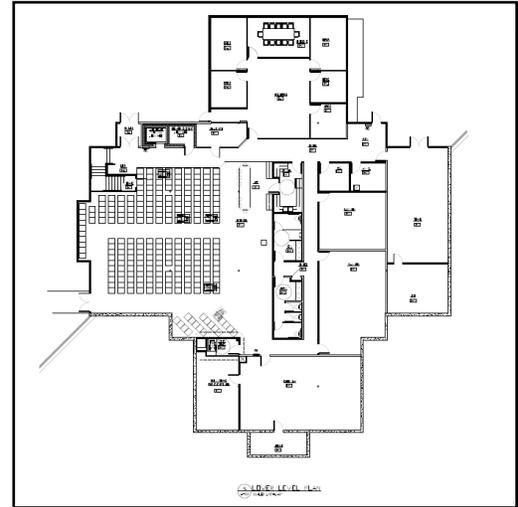
The Proposal

As Elders, we would like to propose the following:

- Eliminate the debt on the church facility
- Secure funding to complete space for our children/youth ministry
- Acquire funds for future expansion

Reasoning

The reasonings behind elimination of the mortgage would allow us to use the extra monies to hire additional ministry staff, complete the classrooms for children/youth, and purchase property for future numerical growth at a much faster pace. Plus, it would eliminate the \$60,000 per year currently paid out in interest on the loan. Naturally, it will provide more monetary resources to develop discipleship and community outreach.



Possible Basement Floor Plan



The Process

A Campaign

The process forward involves a proposal to create a \$1.5 million Capital Campaign. The campaign will kick off in June 2023 and will run for 29 months. Pledges of financial commitments of stocks, cash or other assets will be applied toward eliminating the debt. There will also be regular updates as to the progress of the Campaign via letters, emails and testimonies. We are excited to see God moving among us as we step out in faith.



Why Have a Campaign?

Biblical Support

In the Old Testament, when Nehemiah was called by the Lord to rebuild the wall, he went through the process of waiting for the Lord to mature his vision. Like Nehemiah, we too have waited on the Lord, and now we are ready to pursue the vision of eliminating the building debt to expand our current ministries. We acknowledge God is sovereign and it is our desire as His people to be an extension of His vision to our community and beyond. Philippians 2:13 says "For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure." God has been working behind the scenes to prepare us in accordance with His timetable. As in Nehemiah's prayer, God is providing an opportunity for us to work alongside Him.



Application

- *We observe how God works to mature our faith.*
We are image bearers. Genesis 1:27 tells us we are created in His image. The Hebrew word "image" is "tselem" translated, "His drawing" or "His representation." The symbolism is like tracing an image on paper. As His creation, God is drawing His character and likeness through the activities of our lives by allowing us to nurture our faith.
- *We participate in an act of worship (with a cheerful heart).*
We are participating in the act of worship. Because God is first in our lives, we have a desire above all to obey His commands. He is our voice of authority and final word in all that we do. Through our generous giving we let God know He has first place in our lives. We give so His Kingdom may expand locally and globally.
- *We connect with a form of sacrifice (2 Samuel 24:24).*
There are many blessings God has perfectly designed for us. Because each one of us is unique in our own way, God uses our talents and gifts proportionally to advance His Kingdom. When we give sacrificially according to what He has already given us, we fulfill our part in allowing God to bless us as we in turn bless others in His name.



Testimonies

As an ongoing part of the Campaign, we anticipate the GWC community giving praise to God on how He provided resources, increased our faith, and allowed us to be eyewitnesses to the expansion of God's Kingdom through this journey.

A Message

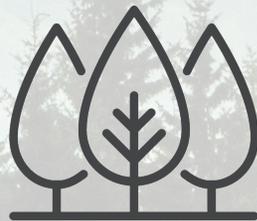
from Pastor Drew Foster

From the very beginning God has invited us to participate in His purposes. Stewardship first fell to Adam and Eve and then to Abraham as God began to carve out a people set apart for Himself. The graces of Jesus Christ enable us to participate in God's purpose of redeeming humankind. All stewardship is about honoring God and reconciling people to Him through the opportunities available to us. One of those opportunities is financial stewardship (Ex: Building the Tabernacles and the Temple [Exodus 36; 1 Chron. 29] and the fruits of generosity in Acts 4).



I envision God doing amazing works among us as we respond in faith and generosity. Will you seek God for direction on how He'd like you to invest in His plans for GWC?

Pastor Drew Foster



GRAYSWOODS
Church

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