



CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE *the* BLESSING

Becoming Christ-like • Building Families • Blessing Communities





In the Beginning...

Forty-five years ago the founding members of the Conejo Valley Church of Christ took a bold step of faith. A step that has blessed thousands of people touched by their foresight. Having met weekly at Waverly Elementary School, these early pioneers knew their church family needed its own home, a strategic beachhead for ministry and shared community.

After much prayer and deliberation, this relatively small group purchased land and built our current facility, making a \$3 million commitment (in today's dollars) to the spiritual growth of generations of children, teens, college students, and adults.

These pioneers "planted trees" whose shade and fruit we've been blessed to enjoy. Many are no longer with us, but their faith and financial sacrifice lives on, and we are their beneficiaries.

Today we're at a crossroads much like the one that our early pioneers faced. The time has come for us to take a bold step to plant seeds that by God's grace will germinate to bless future generations through the faith and ministry of the Conejo Church.



Our Calling: K

“Now the Lord said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your k
I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make y

God’s call to Abram long ago came with a promise and a calling. God’ gracious promise to Abram was to make of him a great nation and to bless him. God’s challenging calling was that Abram and his family would “be a blessing,” indeed that “in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Abram and his family were blessed in order that they might bless others. This theme is found throughout the story of Scripture. God’s people Israel were called to reflect the holy and merciful character of the Lord their God.

In the New Testament writings, this theme once again is central. “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” “Freely you have received, freely give.” “Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.”



Be the Blessing

kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.
your name great, so that you will be a blessing." – **Genesis 12:1-2**

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to share what we have received from God's gracious hand. Like Abram and Sarai, like the people of Israel, like the early followers of Jesus, we too are called to "be the blessing."

Since our beginning as a congregation, three qualities have characterized Conejo: our desire to grow in the image of our Savior, our commitment to build up our children and teens in their faith, and our calling to care for and love our neighbors. In a nutshell, we are a congregation that is committed to becoming Christ-like, building families, and blessing communities.

As we look forward to the future of our ministry, we believe that an important part of "being the blessing" is for us to improve and expand our current facilities.

Our Challenges

Kids

The space for our children's ministry activities is inadequate and poorly laid out. One specific challenge is that there are too many entrances and exits, making controlled access very difficult.

Parking

Our parking is often inadequate, causing people to park on the street or even across Hillcrest.

Teens

Our teens lack their own dedicated space on campus, and they struggle to find spots large enough to accommodate group Bible studies or fellowship activities.

Classrooms

Our adult education program and some of our community ministries are hampered by a lack of available and appropriately-sized classrooms.

Offices

The church offices are three miles from the building because we converted on-site office space into classrooms. This limits our staff presence on our campus and in our neighborhood and costs us about \$30,000 per year in rent.

Kitchen

We are in desperate need of a kitchen and a large room for a variety of congregational and community gatherings.

Accessibility

Those with mobility challenges find attending church services and gatherings difficult due to the lack of accessible entrances and walkways.

As we consider our call to “be the blessing,” we find ourselves hampered by a variety of facility-related issues. **Our challenge then,** is to imagine ways to address these issues.

*Let's imagine what
an enlarged facility
would look like...*

Children's Ministry

Our church is alive, vibrant, and full of youthful energy on Sunday mornings. Voices of children and parents mingle in a joyous cacophony that delights God. One of our elders once described the Conejo Valley Church in this way: "Our average height is about three-foot-six." That's an insightful description of our church's long-term focus on future generations of Christians.

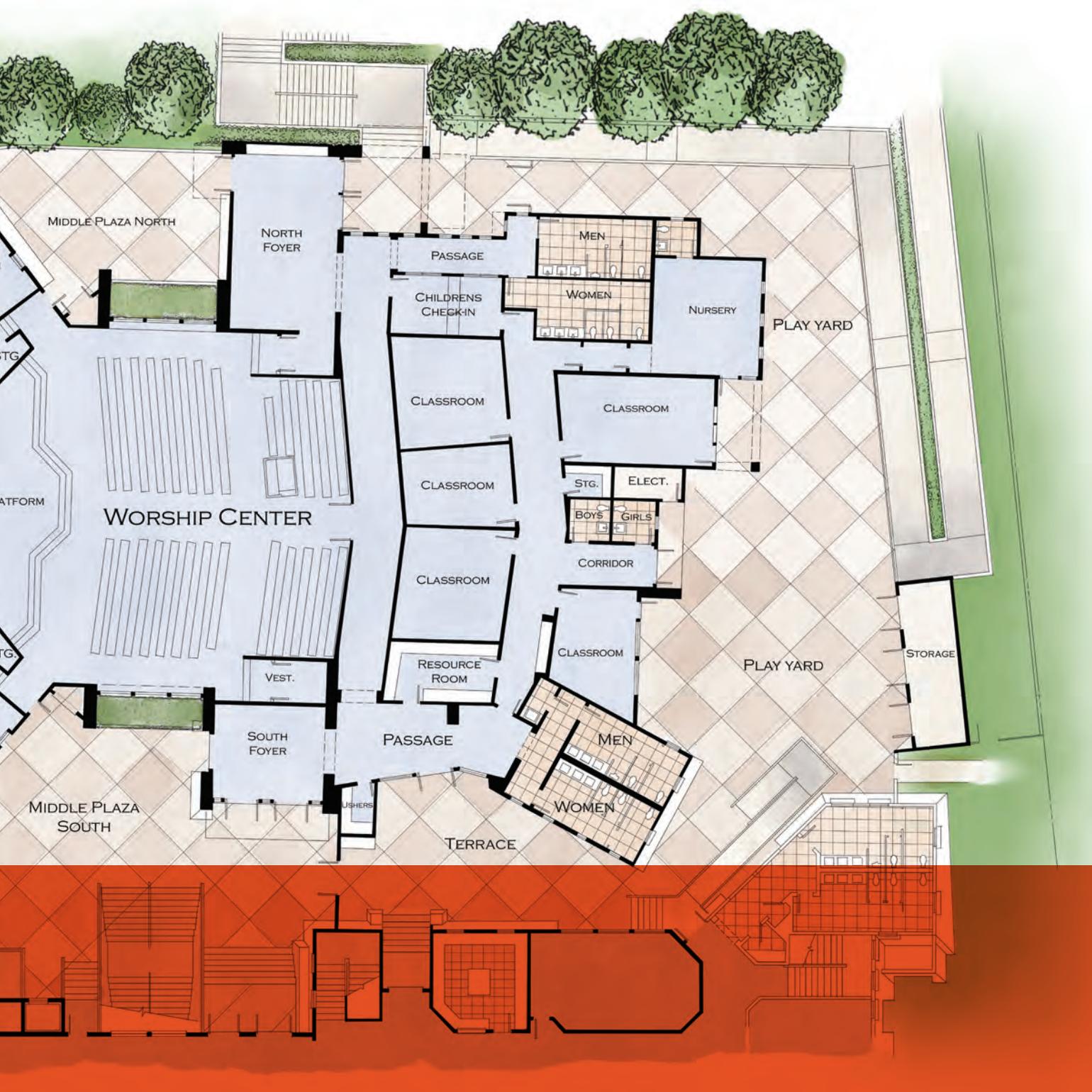
Sunday school classes are just the tip of the iceberg of our children's ministry. We also host Vacation Bible School, the Harvest Festival, the Kindergarten Blessing, and the Good Friday experience. Some of these activities draw neighborhood children. We have a variety of challenges in the space we currently use for our children's ministry!

Imagine, instead, a secured space with controlled entry and exit, designated children's-only restrooms, an age-divided play area, and classrooms large enough for children to explore the world of faith through all their senses. Imagine having a well-designed space that says, "Jesus loves you and so do we!"



imagine...

ROOF TERRACE



MIDDLE PLAZA NORTH

NORTH FOYER

PASSAGE

CHILDRENS CHECK-IN

CLASSROOM

CLASSROOM

CLASSROOM

CLASSROOM

RESOURCE ROOM

PASSAGE

VEST.

SOUTH FOYER

MIDDLE PLAZA SOUTH

USHERS

TERRACE

MEN

WOMEN

NURSERY

PLAY YARD

CLASSROOM

STG.

ELECT.

BOYS

GIRLS

CORRIDOR

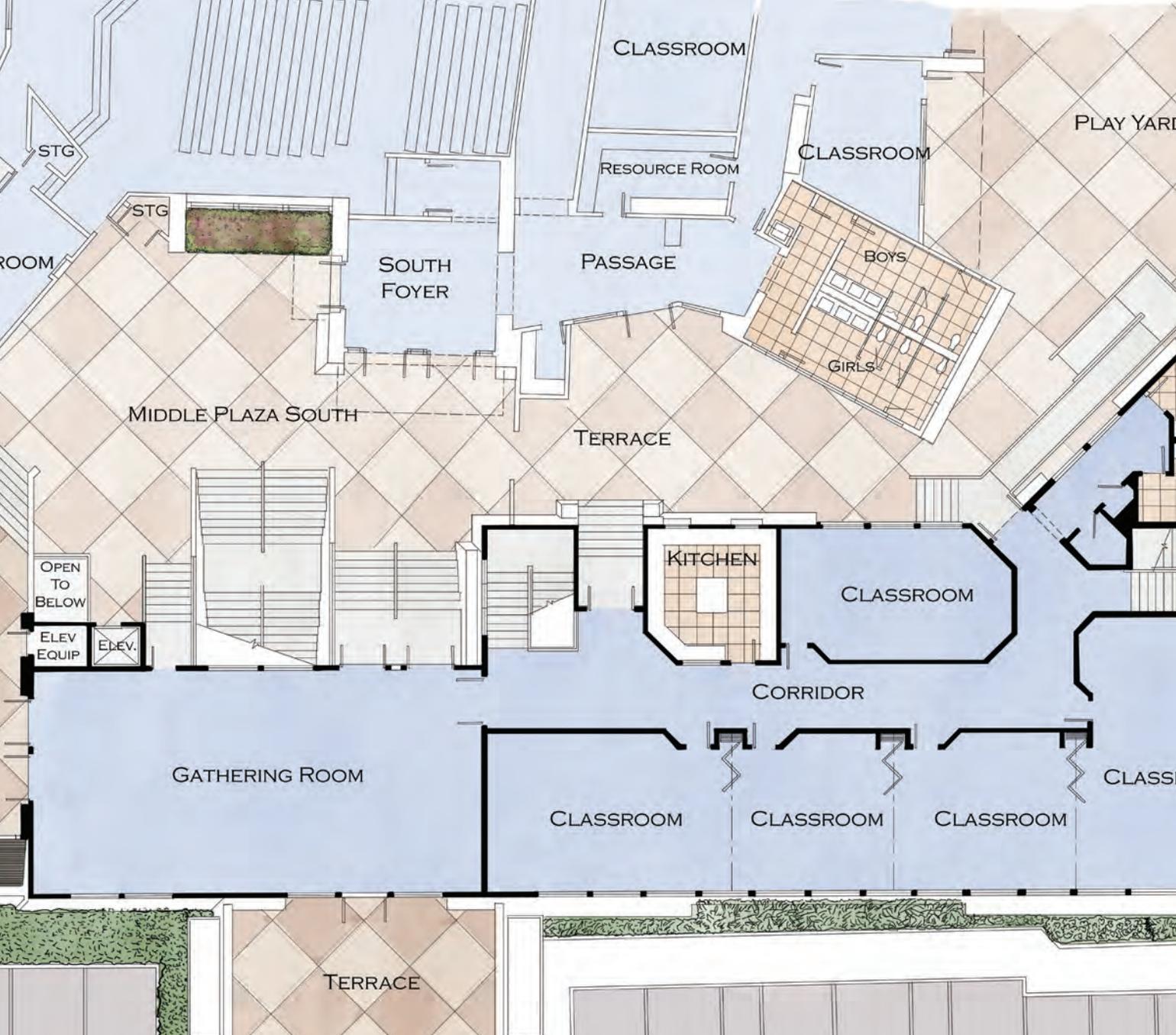
CLASSROOM

PLAY YARD

STORAGE

MEN

WOMEN



imagine...

Teenagers

Our church is well-known in our area for our vibrant ministry to teens. All of us love and appreciate the fun and meaningful family events—such as Lip Sync Night, Root Beer Festival, Flavors of the World—that the teens put on each year to raise funds for their Mexico mission trip. That trip blesses so many people in communities unlike our own, as our teens and adult volunteers construct houses for those who live in difficult conditions. Though our teens build homes for others, back on our campus they don't have a space that is uniquely theirs, a space where they can worship, relax, and hang out together. Imagine a space where they would be proud to bring their friends. Imagine a place outfitted with them in mind, a space that says "you are vital to our congregation and we want to honor you with a place to explore faith, share friendships, worship the Lord, and have fun together."

Adult Classes

We are a church filled with people who are eager to learn as much as possible about our Lord and to live out his words and lifestyle. To do so involves a commitment to prayer, shared reflection, education, and faith conversations. A maximum of three spaces are now available for our adult Sunday School classes. Settings that encourage thoughtful discussion or confidential conversations are difficult to find amidst the crowded conditions on Sunday morning. Imagine a facility that enabled us to gather together in a rich variety of classes, in spaces of varying sizes appropriate for the occasion. Imagine more spaces to evangelize, educate, mentor, disciple, coach, and teach. Imagine spaces for small-group discussions and break-out sessions in which people can freely explore their questions of faith. Imagine having spaces for new Christians to be mentored, for engaged couples to prepare for marriage, for spouses to build stronger marriages, for parents to hone parenting skills, for adults to share in-depth Bible study, and for inter-generational classes to enrich each other.



Community Space

We're a church filled with love for others, not just for our members and children, but also for those who live in the community around us and around the world. We help dozens of children at Conejo Elementary School improve their reading and math skills each week, demonstrating the love of Christ through our mentoring. We feed our neighbors during the Thanksgiving holidays with special donations of food. We provide funds for those in need when emergencies overwhelm resources. Each week, we open our doors to host community meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon. One group meets in the foyer each week, making it hard to guarantee confidentiality when other people come and go from the building. Imagine having more classroom spaces that would enable us to add ministries such as Celebrate Recovery, classes for English-language learners, Boy Scout gatherings, after-school enrichment programs, exercise classes, Mothers of Preschoolers, and more. Imagine not having to turn away kids from our Vacation Bible School program due to a lack of space. Imagine our increased ministry footprint to serve as a gathering place, to be a church "for" the community, not just "in" the community.

imagine...



Kitchen & Dining



Have you noticed that throughout his ministry Jesus often shared meals with people? Our Lord knew the value of gathering around the table to eat together, to share in fellowship, and to strengthen bonds of mutual love and service. Since our church building opened, we've lacked one fundamental tool for sharing community meals: a kitchen. Imagine a well-equipped, full-size kitchen adjacent to usable indoor and outdoor eating spaces. Imagine being able to welcome our neighbors and community into such a space for church potlucks, weddings, funerals, receptions, class functions, and other mealtime gatherings. Imagine having a functional kitchen and dining area that says, "Welcome friends, welcome newcomers, welcome neighbors, welcome community. Let's share a meal and life together."

Access for All

We're a church of hospitable people. We want everyone who walks through the door to worship our Lord to feel welcome, honored and acknowledged as a child of God. But for anyone who needs a cane, walker or wheelchair to get around, our building is not hospitable. It's difficult to navigate the front steps and the narrow walkways into the back of the building. Often, we run out of spaces in our parking lot. Imagine a facility that enables all our members and guests to have safe and welcoming access to worship the Lord on Sundays and to attend other congregational activities and community gatherings. Imagine a facility that says to our members and guests with mobility impairments, "We've been expecting you. Enjoy the easy access we've created for your safety and well-being." Imagine a facility that has abundant parking so that no one has to park across the street or off-site.



BE *the* BLESSING

Today, we face a unique opportunity. We're asking for your generous help to provide resources to aid this growth. We anticipate that this will be a multi-year, multi-phased project. The total project is expected to run \$6 million (based on 2016 estimates), split up over three phases. For the next two years, we're focusing on Phase 1.

Campaign Proposal



Phase 1

**ESTIMATED COST:
\$2 MILLION**

Phase 1 of the project lays the groundwork for all that will follow: creating ample parking spaces and a handicap ramp system that makes the entire campus accessible, as well as providing retaining walls, an access road, and drainage systems for the campus. We're required to do this first.

Phase 2

**ESTIMATED COST:
\$2.5 MILLION**

Phase 2 provides two new buildings located on what is currently the upper parking area. The larger building is a 10,357 s.f. education/fellowship/ministry building with various sized meeting rooms, a full kitchen, and ample spaces for church and community gatherings (including a 1,587 s.f. gathering room that can accommodate 200 occupants). Of that space, our youth ministry will have two dedicated rooms equaling 1,654 s.f. The second building is a 1,980 s.f. office that will net us about \$30,000 a year in savings from rent.

Phase 3

**ESTIMATED COST:
\$1.5 MILLION**

Phase 3 provides a reformatting of our existing building, creating a self-contained children's ministry area with a single-access check-in area, an enlarged playground area, a second bank of restrooms on the north side of the building, entry gathering areas on both the north and south sides, and an enlarged auditorium.

Our Response

RECOGNIZING OUR PART IN GOD'S PLAN

What can you do?

Pray

Pray about what part God would have you play in the campaign. Ask God what sacrifice might mean for you. What gift might God desire from you for this important cause?

Ponder

No commitments are necessary until November 12 so be open to God's guidance. Think a few years down the road—can you delay that new car for a year or two? Can you take one less trip over the next couple of years? Where does God want you to stretch? What does God want you to imagine for the Conejo Church?

Pledge

When you feel at peace with the answer to these questions, complete the commitment card and bring it with you to worship on November 12. If you can't be there that day, submit your pledge card in the week or two beforehand.

Praise

Give praise to God, trusting that God will provide for you in the midst of your sacrifice and believing that God will provide what the church needs to continue and expand our ministry in the Conejo Valley.

Picture

Finally, imagine! Imagine how God wants to use our talented congregation in the years to come once we've built the facility that our ministry requires.

Give Creatively

Priority Budgeting. Many will choose to rearrange their priorities and give up something in their current budget in order to give more generously. This could mean postponing a planned expenditure such as a newer car, a vacation, or a home improvement project.

Unexpected Cash. Invite God to show you ways to give beyond what you can presently see or afford. Some may be given an unexpected inheritance. Others may receive a salary increase or work-related bonus. These and other windfalls may provide a great opportunity for generosity throughout the campaign.

Retirement Accounts. Those who have reached the age of 70 are required to take minimum distributions each year from IRA's and 401K accounts, which are taxed at ordinary income rates. A recent change in the federal tax law allows retirees to transfer funds directly from their IRA/401K to a charity, without incurring tax. The qualified charitable distribution counts as part of the required minimum distribution each year.

Appreciated Assets. Some own assets that have achieved unrealized gains in value, such as real estate and stocks or mutual funds. Once these assets are sold, capital gains taxes are incurred on the gain. Unlike gifts of cash that have already incurred income tax, gifts of appreciated assets to the Be the Blessing campaign avoid application of capital gains taxes, and the donor receives a charitable deduction at the full market value of the asset. Our congregation has several financial advisors who can facilitate such giving.

Planning Your Giving. Giving does not have to be in equal increments during the campaign. Perhaps you have a child who's about to finish college, or you're about to pay off a loan. Consider increasing your giving once your financial status has changed.

Our invitation to you is to prayerfully invite God's guidance of your giving for our **"Be the Blessing"** campaign.

gift Chart

(Phase 1)

Gifts Needed	Gift Total	Annual Gift	Monthly Gift	Weekly Gift
1	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$8,334	\$1,923
1	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$6,250	\$1,443
3	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$4,167	\$962
3	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$3,125	\$723
5	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$2,084	\$481
10	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$1,250	\$289
10	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$834	\$193
12	\$10,000	\$6,500	\$542	\$125
12	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$209	\$49
79	< \$5,000	Variable	Variable	Variable
TOTAL: 136	\$2,000,000			

Your pledge is your faith commitment to God and the church, but it is not legally binding. Should your circumstances change, you may adjust or cancel your commitment. Your pledge is confidential and will not be published or shared.

at what level is god leading you to give?

Commitment Sunday

On Sunday, November 12, we'll gather to celebrate the culmination of our "Be the Blessing" campaign. We are asking every member of the Conejo Church to prayerfully engage in this process and allow God to shape our commitments. On Commitment Sunday, we'll join together and offer our commitments to the Lord using a card like the one you see on this page. The commitment cards will contain the following:

A Pledge for Phase 1 of our "Be the Blessing" Campaign

This represents a pledge over-and-above your normal weekly or monthly giving during our two-year Phase 1 campaign:

- A weekly gift for 104 weeks
- A monthly gift for 24 months
- An annual gift for 2 years
- A one-time gift
- A gift of stocks, securities, or other assets

Commitment Card

I/We pledge to trust God to help us financially support the first phase of our Be the Blessing campaign for the next two years. Our pledge is in addition to our regular contribution to support the life and ministry of the church.

PLEDGE COMMITMENT AMOUNT

\$

I/We plan to give in the following manner:

- \$ _____ Weekly for 104 weeks (2 years)
- \$ _____ Monthly for 24 months (2 years)
- \$ _____ Annually for two years
- \$ _____ As a one time gift

This is a statement of my/our commitment to give.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I/We wish to give to the campaign
by means other than cash:



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