

# GENERATION TO GENERATION

*Ensuring a place for every generation*

Dear Friends,

This is such an exciting time in the life of our church! We've launched new locations, with the help of TV and online tripled the number of people worshipping with us, seen growing numbers of children and students in Sunday school, mid-week programming, and going on mission trips, and as a church we have served those outside our walls in ways we never thought possible.

Over the past 33 years, we have learned that even our biggest dreams don't come close to the ways God can use us to transform lives, renew churches and change the world. And, we believe God is not finished with us yet!

This Fall, we are embarking on a campaign to prepare our congregation for a bright future. The campaign is called Generation to Generation and will focus on creating the right spaces for our children and grandchildren and generations "yet unborn." At the same time, we'll be looking at how we can address the needs of our oldest members. And, we hope to reduce or eliminate our debt at Leawood so that we can redeploy the portion of your offerings that currently go to debt service for mission and ministry instead.

LaVon and I are excited about the Generation to Generation campaign and believe it is important to care for people of all ages in our congregation. We want to ensure that the church continues to do a great job caring for our parents and grandparents' generations, and we desperately want to know that we're doing all we can to connect with our daughters and our granddaughter and their generations. We hope you will prayerfully consider being a part of this important effort, and join us to ensure a vibrant future for the church.

In Christ's love,  
Adam Hamilton, Senior Pastor



# The Resurrection Story



In 1990, a group of visionaries shared a dream that they could build a Christian community where non-religious and nominally religious people of all ages would become deeply committed Christians. Launching Resurrection in a funeral home, they laid a foundation for generations to come. They had no idea the number of lives that would be transformed or the impact the church would have on the community, but they trusted God and dreamed big.

Over the past 33 years, we have seen God at work through the generations. The investments of those who came before us planted seeds that have grown and flourished. Now, it's our turn to make bold commitments and invest in current and future generations.

Resurrection has always been about people whose lives can be transformed when they follow Jesus, and who in turn can change the world. As we've grown and expanded, we've recognized that facilities and resources are important tools for ministry. Today, as a thriving church with six physical locations and a growing online presence, we are committed to ensuring that our buildings and programs continue to welcome and care for our community – from those yet to be born, to teens and young adults, to our oldest adults. This capital campaign will help us make changes to our facilities to meet the needs of people across generations while also reducing or eliminating debt. Both will prepare our church for a vibrant future.



We will tell the next  
**generation**  
the praiseworthy deeds  
of the LORD, his power, and  
the wonders he has done...  
so the next  
**generation**  
would know them,  
even the children yet to be born,  
and they in turn  
would tell their children.  
Then they would put their trust  
in God.

Psalm 78:4b, 6-7a



## October 7, 1990

Church of the Resurrection launched at McGilley Chapel

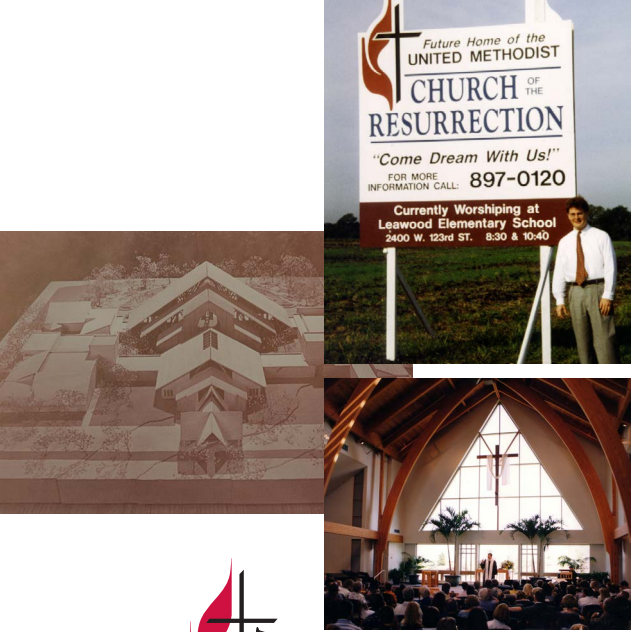
Resurrection launched with four people and a dream to reach non-religious and nominally religious people.



## October 1993

Church of the Resurrection moved to Leawood Elementary

With the church growing exponentially, the congregation moved to a temporary space and expanded nurseries, children and youth Sunday school to welcome new families in attendance.



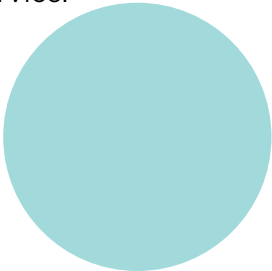
LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

## 1993

### Lift High the Cross

First Capital Campaign

The grand opening of the first Sanctuary, known as the Wesley Chapel, at 137th and Roe was held on December 4, 1994. The new sanctuary welcomed more than 1,200 guests for the first Christmas Eve service.



Worship attendance multiplied, and we quickly outgrew our beautiful 300 seat chapel. We boldly knew we needed to build a new Sanctuary to accommodate this growth. In 1998, we moved to a new 1,500 seat Sanctuary, which is now the Student Center. We built the East Wing of Building C, adding children and student classrooms to accommodate the growth. During this time we launched many new ministries including our Preschool, Leadership Institute, and hosted our first Holy Land trips. Easter 2001, we welcomed 11,500 people in worship.

## 1995-2001



## 2002-2010

Our new sanctuary and classrooms enabled us to welcome more, yet once again we found ourselves out of space. So, in 2002, we responded to God's Plans for our church to build a new Sanctuary with more seating and adjacent children's nurseries and classrooms. Easter 2004, we opened our 3,500-seat sanctuary, welcoming 15,895 in worship. The next few years celebrated many new transformative ministries: Bless the School, Congregational Care Ministry, the Grow, Pray, Study guide, and our first online worship service. By 2010, three new locations launched so we could continue to reach new people: West (2006), Downtown (2009), and Blue Springs (2010).



Our buildings have always been an important ministry tool helping us fulfill our purpose and vision, so in 2014, the 10,000 Reasons campaign focused on building our permanent Sanctuary as a sacred space for all to encounter God. A three-year campaign – we moved in on Palm Sunday 2017 - followed by another three-year campaign, Finishing What We Started, enabled us to renovate Building B, adding adult classrooms and transforming the former sanctuary into a multifunctional fellowship hall while also addressing debt. We welcomed Saint Paul School of Theology to Building C, drawing seminarians as a part of our vision to strengthen churches. In 2019, our fifth location Resurrection Overland Park launched.

# 2011-2019



# 2020-2023

We set goals for the year 2030 to close critical gaps, and through this unrelenting focus Resurrection became a beacon of hope across the community in the middle of uncertain times. Our catalytic television ministry reached more than 35,000 weekly and more than 100,000 on Christmas Eve. Our buildings served as an outpost to distribute over 42,000 COVID-19 vaccines, and the mobile food truck distributed more than 230,000 lbs. of food to the community. In 2022, Resurrection Brookside launched as our 6th location. In 2023, a record number of families, children, and youth returned to church with 1550 children participating in Vacation Bible School and 300 students serving on summer mission trips.

# Where is God Calling Us Now...

In 2020, Resurrection set several critical goals for the year 2030. Recognizing that fewer children, youth and young adults were going to church across the US and that 78% of all people who make a commitment to Christ do so before they are 19, one of these goals was to INVEST IN INTENTIONAL EFFORTS TO REACH EMERGING GENERATIONS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

A second goal was to ADDRESS THE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY, which have skyrocketed among younger, and older generations.

To that end, we believe God is calling us to the following four goals:

- 1 Create Spaces Where Students Know They Belong
- 2 Create a Place for Care and Connection
- 3 Create a Chapel for Weddings, Funerals and Worship
- 4 Retire Debt, Redeploying Debt Service to Expanding Ministry







- Spaces for students where everyone belongs and has the opportunity to grow and live out their faith
- Engaging spaces for worship, teaching, community, and indoor activities and games
- Creation of 9 new classrooms for small groups and Bible study



- An outdoor stage/pavilion with large LED screens for youth concerts and movies on the lawn
- Multi-purpose sport court for youth and adult recreation
- Outdoor seating areas on the event lawn for small groups and fellowship
- Green space for games and gatherings



The plan includes space for an inclusive playground that creates a multi-generational gathering space, where children, youth and adults of all abilities can socialize, experience physical activity, and simply have fun.



## A Place Where Students Know They Belong

The last decade has seen a significant decline in the involvement of youth and young adults in church. As most people come to faith before age 18, we hope to redouble our investment in student ministries and create a youth program reaching both our own students and teens not involved in church. Demographics show over 14,000 middle and high school students live within 5-miles of our Leawood location.

To that end, we've spent the last two years recruiting and developing an outstanding staff of youth leaders and doubled the number of our volunteers. We've created programs to help students find fellowship and faith. This past year, 671 unique teens participated in our programs with 167 being brand new to Resurrection. Our hope over the next seven years is to double these numbers.

To accommodate our youth programs, we need to renovate our student ministry spaces. Our Student Center was last remodeled 18 years ago, before our current students were born. These students need small group meeting spaces. In addition, we hope to create outdoor recreation spaces that foster fun, friendship, and community for teens, families and individuals of all ages and abilities.

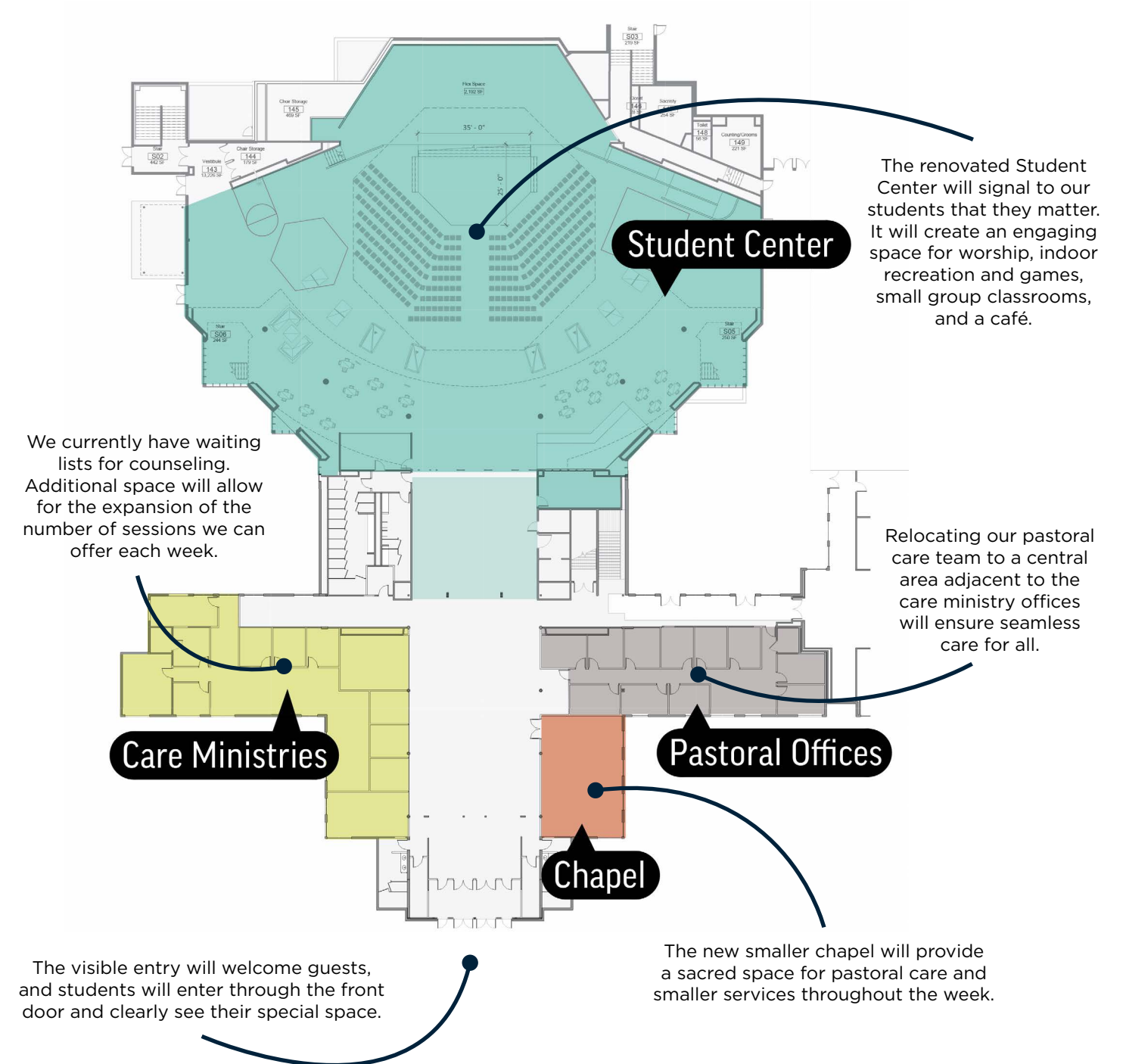




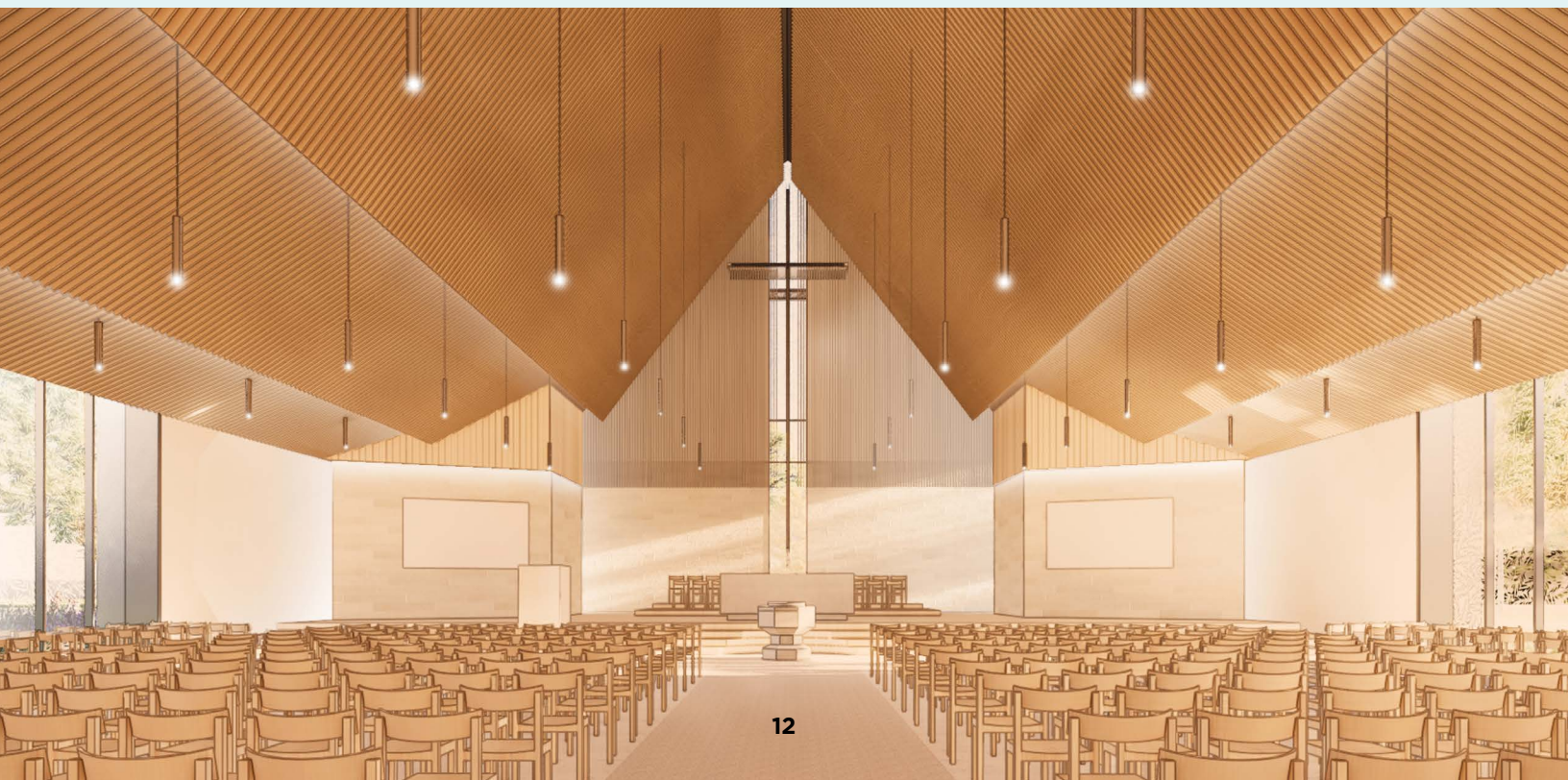


## A Place for Care and Connection

Resurrection's first building was built in 1994, and the entrance was designed to be the "front door" to the church, a place that would welcome the congregation and community throughout the week. Our plan is to renovate the current Wesley Chapel to be a central place for care and connection. It will include a reception area to welcome all who enter and provide a visible, easy-to-access entrance to the Student Center. The space will also become a hub for pastoral care and counseling, allowing us to expand the number of individuals we are able to provide care to. We will bring together our pastoral care and counseling by moving our pastoral offices into one easy-to-find location. On the east side will be a small chapel for our students, those coming for pastoral care, and smaller weddings and funerals.

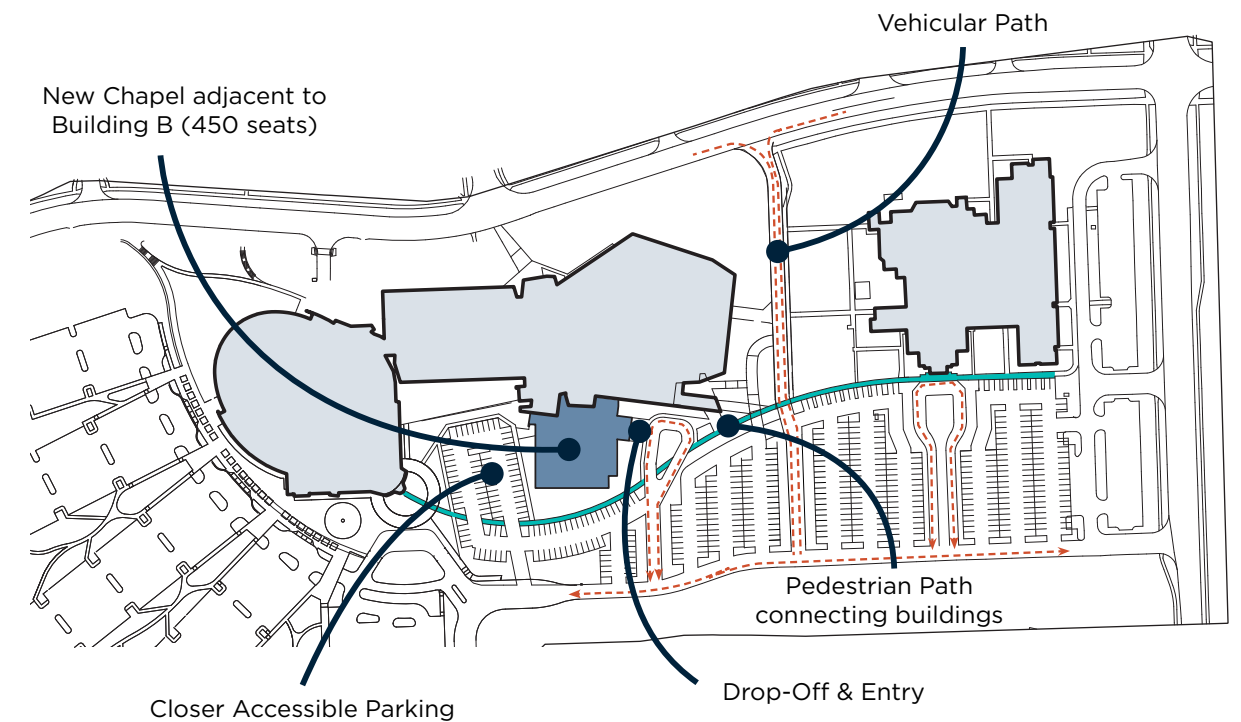






## A Place for Weddings, Funerals, and Worship

From our first master plan, the current Wesley Chapel was intended to be the entry for Building C and a permanent chapel would be built. Our 2013 master plan envisioned it close to the permanent sanctuary, fellowship hall and other ministry spaces. Our permanent chapel will be located on the south side of Building B, an expansion of the existing prayer chapel. It will be used for weddings, funerals, worship and special services. We currently have close to 50 weddings and more than 150 funerals each year. We project the number of funerals will double to 300 per year in the next five years and hope the number of weddings doubles as well. This beautiful new 450-seat Chapel will have timbers, stone, and natural light. Tens of thousands of funerals, weddings, worship services and other special services will be held there over the next 100 years.







The Mesmer Family

What younger generations are often missing today is community. Having a

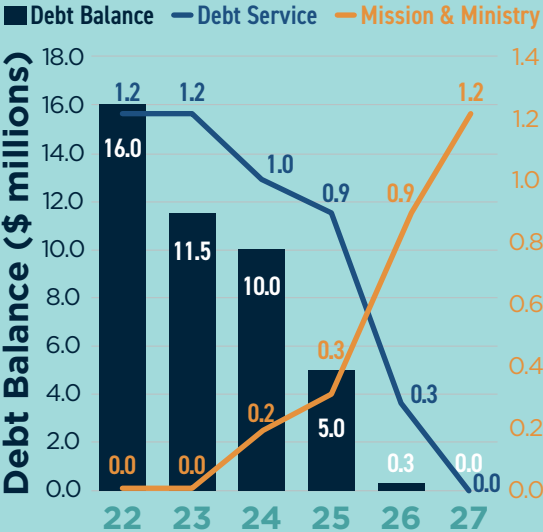
# church that meets young people where they are

and helps them find community is so important. We hope to leave a legacy for our children and grandchildren that they can carry forward with their families.

## Retire Debt and Expand Ministry

We intend to do all of the building and renovations outlined in this brochure without taking on additional debt. In addition, we would like to retire most, if not all, of the existing Leawood debt by the end of this campaign. Thanks to previous campaigns, nearly all of the buildings and land at Leawood are paid for. Our existing debt is \$16 million, and our current debt service is \$1.2 million each year. Two years ago, our interest on that debt was 2%. Today it is 6%.

A goal of this campaign is to retire the debt and burn the mortgage by 2027. This will free up \$1.2 million currently coming out of our ministry budget to pay for interest and principal which will then be deployed for mission and ministry, including the expansion of youth, young adult, and care ministries.



## Together We Can Ensure a Vital Ministry for Resurrection Leawood for Generations to Come

### Campaign Need: \$46 million

\$46 million seems like a very large number, and it is. But given the size of our congregation and the size of our ministry budget, our leaders believe this is a realistic goal. It is about half of the inflation-adjusted amount of our 2014 campaign that built our sanctuary and less than two times our annual giving at Leawood.

We have broken out the need in three tiers:

\$40M: If we raise \$40M we will complete the following:

- Student Center renovation
- Care Ministry and Pastoral Care Offices expanded and relocated
- New Chapel adjacent to Building B
- Inclusive Playground designed for people with special needs
- \$10M in debt reduction

\$43M: If we raise \$43M we will add completion of the following:

- Outdoor recreation area
- \$12M in debt reduction

\$46M: If we raise \$46M we will complete the entire project, including elimination of the debt.

### How will we get there?

Capital campaigns are an investment in the future and the legacy we leave behind. You are invited to consider the goals of the campaign, the ministry impact of the buildings and paying off debt, and then pray, inviting God to guide you to consider a sacrificial gift that can be given over a period of three years, a gift over and above your annual giving to our church. This campaign is a time of spiritual growth – for our church and for us individually. You have the opportunity to be a part of something that will have a tremendous impact. We need your commitment as we continue this journey of transforming lives, renewing churches and changing the world. Thank you for praying about a sacrificial gift to ensure our congregation has a vital future caring for all generations.

Joy in sacrifice for us is the belief you are putting God first. With our gifts we can make a difference, and God’s will be done. We sacrifice doing something we could do for ourselves because God comes first. This is important, and we are committed.

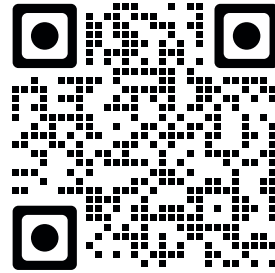


Rusty and Martha Carpenter Smith



## Questions?

We have a website that continues to be updated with additional information about our plans and the Generation to Generation capital campaign. Please check it out by visiting [cor.org/generation](http://cor.org/generation). If you have additional questions, contact our Donor Relations team at [development@cor.org](mailto:development@cor.org).



## Campaign Timeline

January-August

Building Committee Planning and Advance Gatherings

September 10-24

Public Commitment

October 1

Commitment Weekend

November 5

Celebration Sunday

**GENERATION  
TO GENERATION**

## Next Steps

### ► Begin with prayer.

- Pray for this campaign, specifically that God will give our leaders wisdom and touch the hearts of our congregation.
- Pray for personal discernment as you consider how God is calling you to invest in a church for generations today and tomorrow.
- Pray this simple prayer daily:  
*God, you have called us to tell the coming generations of your glorious deeds. Grant us vision to know the plans you have for your church, and give us the conviction, courage and boldness to pursue them. Amen.*

### ► Determine your commitment.

The success of the campaign will require a commitment from us all to complete the building designs and achieve our goals. A sacrificial gift is an opportunity to take a bold step in your spiritual journey, make a sacrificial gift to invest in God's work, and experience the joy of knowing that you will be sharing Jesus with current and future generations.





**Resurrection**  
A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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