As part of the celebration of our 150th anniversary, the Session approved a capital stewardship program with the objective of providing critical capital funds for the next 10 years. Elements of Church as Mission include worship, music, Christian education and programs, the building, and being of service and accessible to the congregation and the Santa Fe community. The three purposes of our campaign, fundamental to the fulfillment of our divinely given mission, are stewardship of our facilities; parking; and support of two specific mission initiatives.

Creating Balance in Mission
During the summer of 2016, the Campaign Committee received nearly 150 responses through interviews, written replies, and electronic submissions to a questionnaire about the priorities for the Church determined by the Session, and organized and developed into campaign components by the Campaign Committee. The three campaign components—building maintenance, parking, and mission—were all seen as important expressions of the mission of First Presbyterian Church. The congregation was equally supportive of the components.

For the purposes of the campaign, allocations will be made as funding is received through the three-year giving period approximating the overall projected needs. Should the level of commitments exceed or fall short of the projected needs, the Session will have the responsibility and authority to adjust the funding among the three components of the campaign after broad consultation with the congregation.

Respondents were highly committed to their beloved First Presbyterian Church of Santa Fe, and very expressive of their commitment to create a strong future for the Church and its ministries. It is that devotion to the Church of Jesus Christ and commitment to be the hands of Christ that propels the church into the capital stewardship campaign at this time. The personal and familial decisions that will be critical to the decisions about generous support will emerge through conscientious prayer.

CASE STATEMENT
The Great Heritage—Bold Future Campaign

First Presbyterian Church (FPC) began in 1867 as a mission church to meet the needs of a growing city and region. Since its founding, FPC has been instrumental in creating and shaping many social services that support the well-being of citizens in our community. The building addition completed 10 years ago as well as the renovated sanctuary and the new organ have given First Presbyterian wonderful tools for fulfillment of its mission today. These facilities serve the needs of the congregation for worship, study, fellowship and service to others.
Building Maintenance as Mission: 
Projected Need: $1,000,000

Our Book of Order reminds us our church facility is one major way we engage the community, and its maintenance is part of our Mission. Visibly located in the heart of the city, our Church is a spiritual center, a community center and a cultural center. We are entrusted with a historic sanctuary of very significant value not only to us, but also to the city of Santa Fe. More than 150 organizations used our facilities over the last six years. There is an urgent need to replenish our building maintenance reserves in order to fulfill our mission and to be responsible stewards of our resources.

Ten years ago First Presbyterian Church completed a much-needed addition to the Church, restored the sanctuary and installed a magnificent Fisk organ. Through that campaign, reserve funds were set aside for ongoing upkeep without detrimental impact on the operating budget. As expected, those assets are being depleted.

In the Spring of 2016, staff and members of the Facilities Committee compiled a building component replacement cost list and a corresponding building reserve analysis for 20 categories of major items of building repair, replacement and maintenance, including HVAC, elevator, roof, stucco, floor surfaces, electrical and lighting systems, and other similar items. The estimated amount of reserve needed to cover the projected cost of these items over the next 10 years is $1 million. This is the largest component of the campaign.

Parking as Mission: 
Estimated Need: $500,000

Our parking situation is critical. Accessible parking demonstrates our commitment to being an open, hospitable community of faith. Parking was identified by the vast majority of our congregation as an essential priority. Church growth analysts insist that easy access to parking is imperative to maintain and grow our congregation.

For years we have depended on parking spaces made available in Santa Fe County’s parking lot on the north side of our building. The County is now developing plans to build a new office building and parking garage on that property, so we will lose that space in 2017. Our parking challenge will arrive in two stages:

Short-Term Need: During the construction period of approximately two years, we will need to secure off-site parking for our congregation and others who use our facilities, especially during evenings and weekends. This will include expanding our current arrangements with the Santa Fe Community Convention Center, Los Alamos National Bank, and other nearby property owners with available parking areas.

Long-Term Need: We have petitioned the County to resolve our parking needs and ensure a vital and sustainable Church community into the next 150 years. If such discussions do not prove successful, we will need to secure other long-term, off-site parking arrangements to sustain us for decades to come. These may include lease, easement or other contractual agreements. Our goal is to secure assured long-term access to as many as 100 spaces for use primarily on evenings and weekends.

Mission to Others: 
Projected Need: $500,000

Mission is woven into our organizational DNA, and has always been at the forefront of this congregation’s identity. Many early mission projects were serving the area to this day, and continue to be supported by our Church. As a celebration of this rich heritage, we propose to expand our mission commitments both within our Church family and beyond our walls in order to address current community needs.

Child Development Center Scholarships

The Child Development Center (CDC) at First Presbyterian Church enjoys a four-star rating from the University of New Mexico, and the Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD) of the state of New Mexico. The CDC is a mission-based community outreach program that strives to be accessible to all families in our community regardless of socio-economic status. On average the daily enrollment is 60 children. Currently five scholarships, two full and three partial, are paid out of the Church’s scholarship fund and CYFD subsidies. The goal is to have six, or 10% of the children, either on full or partial scholarships.

Because research shows how important sustained relationships are in a child’s life, the CDC is committed to maintaining the continuity of care for every child who enters the program until they are eligible for kindergarten. For families that experience financial hardship during the year due to loss of employment, divorce, etc., the CDC will provide subsidies out of the Scholarship Fund at the recommendation of the Director and discretion of the Board.

Adelante

First Presbyterian Church currently supports, both financially and through volunteer hours, a local organization called Adelante which serves children, youth and families experiencing homelessness. Among their services are tutoring for academic achievement and life success; advocacy; assistance with financial emergencies; school supplies and uniforms; and annual distribution of approximately 50,000 pounds of food.

Through the campaign, our Church will help Adelante expand their successful liaison program in the Santa Fe public schools by providing funds to pay the salary of a new liaison staff person. Adelante’s in-school liaison currently works one-on-one with student clients in Santa Fe High School to identify and overcome academic, social and economic issues which inhibit learning and progress toward graduation. Adding an additional staff liaison person will double the number of students served through this life transforming demonstration of Christian outreach.

For 13 years, volunteers from First Presbyterian Church have been providing meals to 60 to 90 Adelante clients each month from September through May. This campaign will enable the new liaison, working with our Mission and Social Justice Committee, to provide meals for clients, and to promote opportunities for members of the congregation to volunteer as K-8 tutors in reading and math to Adelante student clients. This expanded relationship will allow the Church to engage both financially and interpersonally with the students being served during potentially devastating intervals of life.