

Growing Grace

Frequently Asked Questions

(as of April 2006)

Q **What is 'Growing Grace?'**

A 'Growing Grace, From the ground up and our hearts out', is the name of our building program here at Grace Community Fellowship.

Q **When did 'Growing Grace' begin?**

A Sunday morning, September 19, 2004 we launched 'Growing Grace' with a Capital Stewardship Program which challenged our church spiritually and financially. The goal was to guide our Christian walk in faith and at the same time increase our financial support of the church and building program.

Q **Why do we need a building program?**

A The facilities are too small for current needs. Our nursery and classrooms are overcrowded, office space is inadequate, and there is no room for adult ministries.

Q **Who decided what the needs are?**

A In 2004, a Program Ministries Team led by Tracy Sims submitted a 100-page assessment outlining recommendations. From this report the Design Team, led by Dan Morehouse, developed a priority list of what we should build.

Q **What is the priority list of what we need to build?**

A 1] Foyer, 2] Children's Education, 3] Nursery, 4] Office, 5] Auditorium (Sanctuary), 6] Adult Classrooms

Q **What determined how much we could build right now?**

A We started with a master plan. The Design Team worked with an architect to develop a long-range plan that would meet our needs up to 2000 people attending Grace. Then we build what we can afford, with the priority list in mind, dependant on what resources are available. This will be PHASE 1.

Q **How did we arrive at a budget for PHASE 1?**

A Our consultants projected we could raise \$700,000 to \$1,000,000 thru pledges. We planned to borrow \$500,000. This gave us a \$1,500,000 budget. Initial analysis placed the cost of construction at \$1,800,000.

Q **How much money was raised thru pledges?**

A November 2004, 150 families at Grace made pledges over a three-year period totaling over 1.3 million dollars! Our financial team believes our giving is on the right track at this point. Praise God!

Q **Do we have the permits required to start building?**

A Our Growing Grace Campaign has been tied up in red tape at City Hall. We had a public hearing on February 8th and received a conditional use permit in late February. We have submitted all required documents for our building permit which may take 2-3 months.

Q **How has the cost of construction changed since 2004 estimates? (as of April 2006)**

A The project is now at \$2,402,650

Q **Why is there a \$600,000 increase?**

A Several reasons:

1] Adding a second floor of educational space will cost \$200,000. This provides 9,000 square feet of unfinished space. Our architect and contractor urge us to do it now instead of later.

2] City codes demand that our existing building have a fire sprinkling system and electrical updates at a cost of \$150,000. Originally this was thought to happen in a future phase.

3] Construction materials increased by 15% due to high oil prices and hurricane Katrina. The increased cost of materials came to \$252,000.

Q What will be built in PHASE 1?

A Our Atrium (increasing our foyer space 275%), the children's wing (provides 320% additional space for our children's ministry), 9,000 square feet unfinished second floor, unfinished kitchen, and relocating the nursery and offices.

Q Can the cost of construction be lowered?

A The design and construction teams have already reduced costs by eliminating many items that can be added later. Some of these items include a driveway, entry canopy, kitchen appliances, and utility shed.

Q Can we use our building during construction?

A Yes. However, we will lose the use of our nursery and room 103. During construction the nursery will be in rooms 104 and 105. Room 109 (behind the auditorium) will be used by elementary kids.

Q Where will be offices be located?

A Modular trailers will be used for temporary office space. This cost is included in our new budget at a cost of \$7,500.

Q Can we start building even though we are short on financial commitments?

A Our lender requires that the total cost of our project be secured by pledges or financing before construction begins.

Q What is our plan to raise the \$600,000 necessary to start?

A We are asking you to prayerfully consider extending your current pledge for an additional year. This would extend your commitment thru October, 2008. If you have not made a commitment, we are asking you to consider a monthly pledge for the remaining 20 months of this four-year commitment period.

Q Can't we just borrow more money?

A We currently obtained our \$500,000 through Selco Credit Union at an interest rate of 6.25%. An additional loan would make the payments too high for our budget.

Q What if I have questions?

A You can always direct questions to the church office where they will be transferred to the right individuals.