



downtown

F O R G O O D



“Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.”

-EPHESIANS 3:20 (NLT)

Thank you!

You listened carefully. You asked clarifying questions. You submitted wonderful ideas. Your feedback has been indispensable. You have said that you are ready in both word and survey.

Now it is time for us to discern and decide in terms of our commitments of prayer, time, talent, and, yes, resources.

What is at stake? Good question.

Do we want to be Downtown for Good?

Do we want to be a community of believers firmly planted in the heart of our city?

Do we want to be in the heart of the city for a purpose beyond ourselves?

I have heard a resounding yes for the past three years I have been back Downtown. You have said it clearly, passionately, and frequently that being Downtown for Good is more than a catchy phrase. It is the desire you feel God has placed on our collective hearts.

For us to remain Downtown for Good we need to be more hospitable and accessible. The questions we are answering are twofold. How do we care for our buildings, one of the great resources handed to us by previous Downtown members, in a way that they become as hospitable as you are? How do we make the overall building more accessible (convenient and clear) for people of all ages? That is what we have been talking about in detail this fall.

The three questions I asked myself about this project:

1. Is it needed?
2. Is it doable?
3. Am I willing?

I have come to the conclusion that the projects are definitely needed and based on all the facts doable, for the cost is within the reach of a congregation our size and annual budget. And, yes, I am willing to expend the time and energy and resources to help us make this happen.

But my guess is that you already knew my answers! And while it is important for you to know where I stand, your discernment is the most important part. For it will take the entire Downtown family to make this a reality.

To that end, this booklet has been developed to aid in your prayerful consideration. It is a compilation of the projects and a guide for further conversations. Please take some time to read and get further clarification in order to answer the three questions above for yourself.



CURRENT CHALLENGES

WITH ACT 2

Inconsistent and unreliable heating and air conditioning in our sanctuary

Upgrades to HVAC in the center core to allow better management of temperatures

A first-floor layout that is confusing and hard to get around in

New entrance that is a gateway to the sanctuary and children’s wing. More direct access will eliminate confusion

A Fellowship Hall that is tired and worn and needs a serious upgrade

Refresh our Fellowship Hall to make it more functional, both for meals and for meetings

The lack of an open area for functions to promote hospitality and fellowship

New open Atrium adjacent to the sanctuary

A small, outdated playground with equipment that is old and unsafe

Provide a welcome to children and families through an updated nursery area, a new playground, and more direct access to the children’s area

The lack of usable accessible and van-accessible parking spaces

Increase and clearly designate accessible and van-accessible parking

Challenging accessibility – mobility, sound, wheelchair seating in sanctuary

Improve accessibility to and in the sanctuary

The lack of a covered, all-season drop-off for those attending church, concerts and other functions

Provide for safer, more direct and more comfortable access to our church building

An organ that is unreliable and limited in capability

First phrase of work to address electrical needs, re-voicing pipes and replacing the console

A sanctuary that needs freshening and minor improvements in finishes

Paint, carpet, address safety concern of low balcony railing

Walls and floors throughout the Downtown facility in need of upgrading and freshening

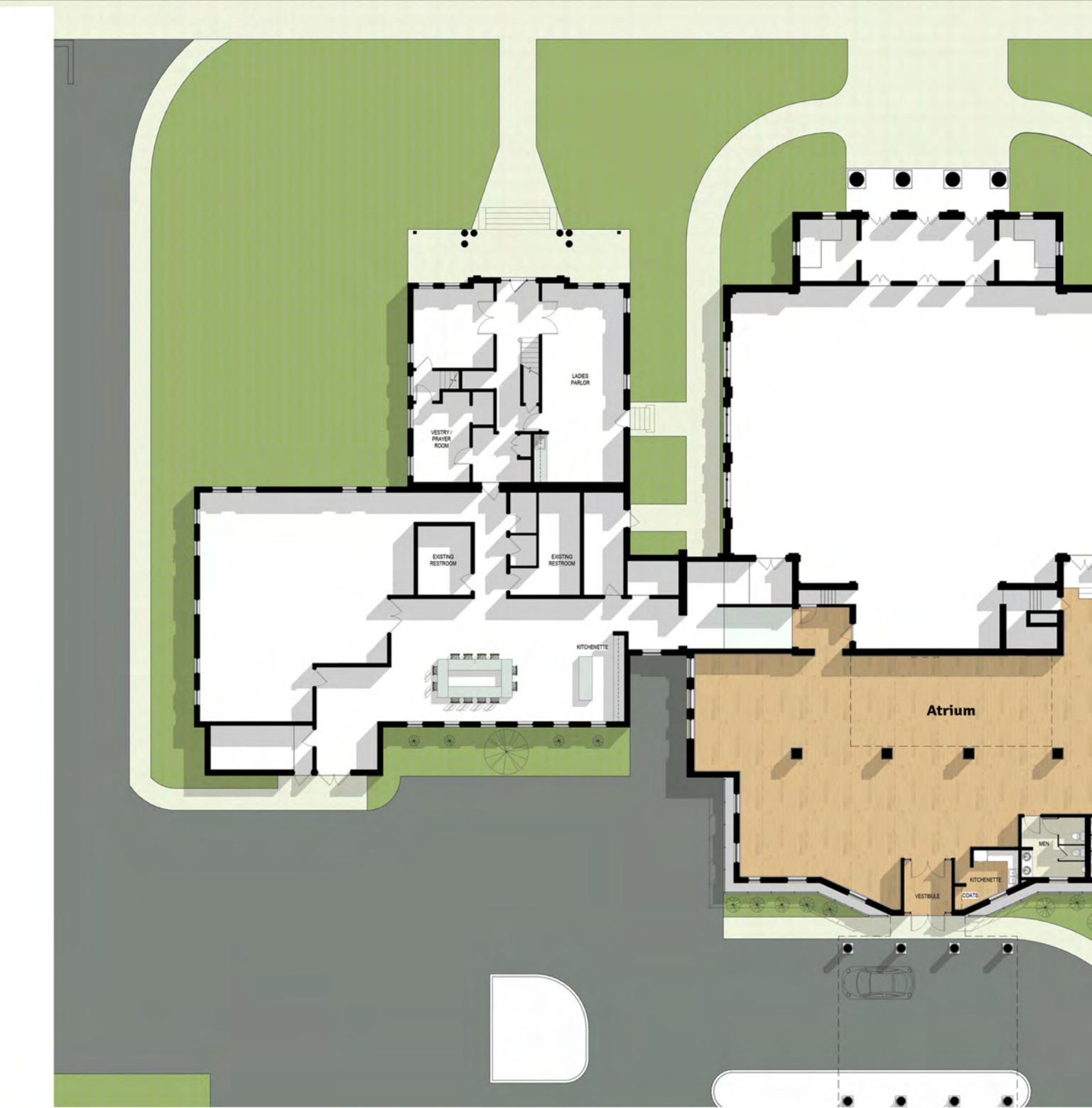
Update to freshen paint and finishes



The Act 2 Proposal

Concept drawings only. Subject to change.

W. HIGH ST.





Proposed Fellowship Hall.



Proposed New Atrium.



Proposed New Atrium.



Proposed New All Season Covered Entrance.

Act 2 Capital Project

Total Investment

Note: Costs based on preliminary estimates but are subject to change.

Major Projects	Details
Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New playground area with synthetic, injury-resistant surface • New playground equipment • New fencing and protective barrier
Atrium and Porte Cochere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repurposing of existing space to create a new open, atrium for welcoming and fostering fellowship • New covered, all-season entrance providing easy and safe access to the welcoming area and sanctuary
HVAC (Phase 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidate select HVAC systems in central core • Upgrade central infrastructure and coordinate sanctuary control systems
Relocation Renovation*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remodeling of alternative spaces to accommodate the current Archives, Ladies Parlor and Library • Includes new flooring and lighting; wall adjustments; and moving expenses
Organ (Phase 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant organ upgrade including replacing the organ electrical systems, re-voicing over 2,250 pipes, and replacing the existing console and controls.

\$1,750,000

*Historic chapel elements will be preserved. Chapel relocation slated for future expansion.



Projects Investment Cost

Investment: \$2,250,000

Subject to change based on final material and labor costs.



Improvements	Details
Fellowship Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New ceiling and improved lighting• New flooring and wall painting• Elimination of moisture issue on SW wall
Accessibility Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional sanctuary wheel chair locations• Expanded dedicated accessible parking
Music Suite	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New flooring and wall painting• Rehearsal room reconfiguration
Sanctuary Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New carpeting throughout sanctuary• Addition of glass railing in balcony to address safety issue• Ceiling repairs• Wood repairs on pews, communion rail and chancel floor
Church Grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New landscaping front entrance and playground• Existing tree trimming and selective removal• Parking lot resurfacing and additional sidewalks
Rokeby Offices Rooms 1 and 2 Gathering Hall Stairwells	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New carpeting and flooring• Wall painting
Security Expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exterior security cameras on new playground and East side of the church

METHODIST CHURCH

Q and A

Is there a master, long-term site plan for the Downtown campus?

In assessing the campus and current needs, the Downtown building team has identified possible locations for future additions (potential for a chapel area and an activity space) and has also worked with the Trustees to develop a long-term plan for maintenance of our campus (including other HVAC, sidewalks, landscaping, etc.).

How do these plans impact parking Downtown?

Some details remain open, but plans include increasing the number of accessible parking spaces available and including van-accessible spaces (with the designated safe zone for loading/unloading). Resurfacing the lot will improve access for everyone, including those using strollers, walkers, and wheelchairs.

What updates do these plans bring regarding heating and air conditioning?

These plans provide for consolidating select HVAC systems in the central core of the building and upgrading the central infrastructure. Additionally, the controls for the heating and AC in the sanctuary will be updated to work together so we are better able to create a comfortable environment even when the weather is unseasonable.

Can more details be shared about the organ?

We know that the organ needs more work than can be covered in these projects or in this time frame, so this work is a significant first step in addressing the overall needs. Plans include new electronics, refurbishing existing pipes and installing a new-to-us, refinished console and controls.

What are the plans for the rooms and meeting areas that will need to move to create the new Atrium?

Leaders in the ministries most directly affected by these changes have helped identify spaces to relocate to – the Parlor to renovated space in the old parsonage, Archives to the basement, and the Prayer room to the vestry. Using the current Gathering Hall as a meeting space will allow some groups currently meeting in Room 111 to meet there.



What are the plans to ensure the safety of the children and care providers using the new playground?

Safety is, of course, a primary concern when creating a space for our children and will be addressed in multiple ways. The playground construction will include impact-absorbing material in the “fall zones” around equipment, and the new equipment will meet current standards for schools. The nursery area will open directly to the fenced-in playground space, so entrance and exit from the area will be secure for teachers/parents and children. Eliminating overgrown landscaping and installing a security camera and lighting will also create a safe environment for play.

With the addition of the new Atrium, how will the existing gathering area be used?

The current Gathering Hall will continue to be used in multiple ways – an independent meeting space, a breakout space for groups meeting in West Chapel, communion preparation, and other set-up for services and concerts.

How long will I have to fulfill my Act 2 financial commitment?

Act 2 is designed as a two-year commitment, though gifts may continue beyond that. It is helpful to our financial team to know if you plan to space your gifts over 3 years, e.g., so we’d appreciate knowing that as you make your commitment or if an adjustment is needed after the commitment is made.

Downtown Gift Chart

Having been welcomed and encouraged in our discipleship through the generosity of others, we have the chance to make our Downtown facilities more hospitable and accessible, to prepare for others to develop as disciples Downtown.

The adjacent chart breaks down the numbers and gives a look at how gifts combine to get us to that target.

**Every gift is needed.
Every gift is important.**

Gifts Needed	2 Year Commitment	Approx. Weekly Gift	Approx. Monthly Gift	Approx. Yearly Gift	Gift Level Total
1	\$200,000	\$1,923	\$8,333	\$100,000	\$200,000
2	\$125,000	\$1,202	\$5,208	\$62,500	\$250,000
4	\$75,000	\$721	\$3,125	\$37,500	\$300,000
4	\$50,000	\$481	\$2,083	\$25,000	\$200,000
8	\$35,000	\$337	\$1,458	\$17,500	\$280,000
12	\$25,000	\$240	\$1,042	\$12,500	\$300,000
16	\$18,000	\$173	\$750	\$9,000	\$288,000
18	\$7,500	\$72	\$313	\$3,750	\$135,000
28	\$5,000	\$48	\$208	\$2,500	\$140,000
35	\$2,500	\$24	\$104	\$1,250	\$87,500
45	\$1,000	\$10	\$42	\$500	\$45,000
49	\$500	\$5	\$21	\$250	\$24,500
TOTAL					\$2,250,000

Discipleship Context

“For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.” 1 CORINTHIANS 13:12-13 (NRSV)

There are at least three types of people reading this right now. Some of us have already decided to support the project and are prayerfully considering at what level. Some of us are still on the fence and need to hear and discuss more. And then some of us have decided to pass on participating. Does that sound about right?

And while there are three places we may find ourselves in regards to Act 2, there is something we all have in common. The decision we make, regardless of the outcome, will either grow us closer to God or not. We are all in a faith journey. Faith, hope and love are the three things that the Apostle Paul says will remain forever. These are the three things we can exercise today that build our eternity.

So, as we discern and decide, let me encourage us all to do so with eternity in mind by asking three questions.

1. How does this help further my faith?
2. How does it show hope that Jesus is Lord and his kingdom is near?
3. How does my discernment and ultimate decision help others thrive?



If you will join me in asking these disciple-forming questions I am convinced that we will experience God’s grace regardless of the decision. Thank you for taking this opportunity to trust that through it God will grow your faith, hope and love.



To all our Downtown members and regular attenders,

Thank you for the chance to be a part of envisioning these projects with you. We agreed to be members of this team for a variety of reasons – perceived needs in our facilities, excitement over the possibility of welcoming others, and a sense that it was the right time to pay attention to Downtown, to name a few – and over the past several months, we have learned so much. With strong support from Sherman Carter Barnhart Architects, we have looked with fresh eyes at our current facilities, and we have prayed for God’s direction and guidance. You have also been inspiration, as we know that our being a part of the Downtown community is directly tied to the commitment of many who welcome us and encourage our discipleship here.

As we move towards commitment to these projects, we ask you to please continue to pray for Downtown and these opportunities to be Downtown for Good. Our team is available to meet with you individually or in groups, if that is helpful.

Gratefully yours,

Lu-Ann Farrar
Jay Harden
Jeanne Badgett
Tom Billups

Allison Commings
Steven DeLucia
Jeff Fox
Kit Hornback

Brenda Nally
Chas Jordan
Tracy Spencer

Matt Wood
Barry Prince
Todd Nelson



