

Capital Campaign Proposal
Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church

The Background:

Rising Hope is an essential mission of the United Methodist Church in the Alexandria District and beyond. Unique in its ministry, Rising Hope witnesses to a fundamental passion of the Wesleyan movement since its inception: ministering with and to the least, the lost, and the lonely of the community.

Since its founding in 1996, Rising Hope's mission has been to bring the "power of Christ and the support of the church to the community living in poverty south of Alexandria, VA along the Route 1 Corridor. The ministry could not have begun or continued without the support and involvement of the people of the district and individuals from across the Virginia Annual conference.

The needs and opportunities of the community are great; the fiscal resources to support the ministry are limited. Unlike most congregations, Rising Hope's members and constituents are not blessed with the fiscal resources to fully undergird the congregation's ministry.

Seventeen years ago, the people of the Alexandria District and the annual conference participated in a successful capital campaign that helped create a building that is a visible permanent presence and stable location for the essential ministries of Rising Hope, ministries reflecting the reality of the Kingdom Jesus proclaimed by welcoming rich and poor alike and being racially and culturally diverse.

Over the years, the building has served well the church's ministries. However, opportunities to expand Rising Hope's ministries of worship, mercy, and justice continue to increase. This increases fiscal and physical needs.

The financial obligation for the building continues. The church continues to have a mortgage, and well-used equipment is in need of repair and upgrades.

The Campaign:

We request the Alexandria District Conference to approve a \$500,000 capital improvement campaign for Rising Hope Mission Church. The campaign will:

- secure funds to eliminate the remaining building mortgage
- support building improvements; refurbishing the kitchen--which serves 100s of individuals each week; refrigeration and freezer systems; and the HVAC system
- secure a dependable van for the Route One ministry.

The elimination of the mortgage obligation alone will free \$1,900/month in additional fiscal resources to help address the ministry's—and the peoples'—needs.

The Plan:

Upon approval by the District Conference, a comprehensive plan and timeline will be developed. The District Superintendent, pastor, and consultant will recruit a five-to-seven member campaign executive committee and a twelve-to-seventeen full committee.

The full committee, which will include individuals from congregations, Alexandria District lay and clergy leaders, and community individuals, will provide ongoing oversight of the coordinator and the campaign, and lead in fundraising contacts.

A volunteer consultant with experience in development and fundraising will provide the day-to-day oversight and support of the campaign. That individual has experience in fundraising efforts.

While the actual fundraising program will not begin until January 2017, this proposal includes a request for ministry supporters, capital campaign committee members, and friends of Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church, to make brief presentations to charge conferences this fall. The campaign staff will explore the option of developing DVD presentations and basic information announcing the pending January 2017 campaign.

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