

ACT II:



## What does it look like when All of us are In together?

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“Take your everyday, ordinary lives--your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around lives--and place them before God as an offering.”



Over a decade ago, this community started with that verse from Romans 12, as it is in The Message version. What a beautiful picture of a Christian community! We come together, ordinary people, and we place ourselves before God, who has given himself to us. We do it trusting and certain that God does far more than we can imagine with anything given over to him.

I think this verse has been an especially fitting picture for our community. Who we are now as a community--the way we worship, the way we care for each other, and the way we serve in the world--wasn't planned in a conference room nearly as much as it was shaped by each of you. From the few of you who have been here since the beginning, to people who were with us only a while before moving, to those of you who are relatively new--God has used each person to contribute to who we are.

As we were talking about this next step, the words “All In” kept running through my mind. I’ve witnessed time after time the change that has happened in your lives when you decided to go “all in” on your faith—to get serious about your own prayer and discipleship, to make a difficult confession, to trust God with something you had been holding onto. I’ve witnessed the change in our community that comes when someone is “all in”—when they commit to showing up consistently, serving, leading, giving, inviting others. And I’ve witnessed what happens in our community when all of us are in together. I still thank God for holding this community together as we moved to Stone Road, even though many would have likely voted against it. All of us were not in agreement, and yet we were all in. What a testament to your faithfulness and God’s goodness to us!

So I’m asking myself and asking you what it means to be “All In.” What does it look like to be “All In” on my faith—wholly devoted to God, holding nothing back? What does it mean to be “All In” as a member of this community—faithful in my prayers, my presence, my giving, my service, and my witness? And what does it look like when All of us are In together?

Whatever it is, it's a beautiful picture. And it takes us places none of us can dream on our own, because I'm convinced that when we give ourselves to God, he transforms us in ways that far exceed our small imaginations.

This next phase is going to be a big challenge for us. We hope to raise \$300,000 over the next three years, while also continuing to grow our budget. Frankly, I've had moments of doubt and anxiety about it. It seems beyond our capacity. And yet, I've seen this community exceed what I thought we could do many times already. I've seen God's provision countless and surprising times. And so for all my doubts, I enter this season excited to see how God continues to bless us with his abundant provisions, and how he continues to use you.

Gratefully,

**Teddy Ray**

**Lead Pastor, Offerings Community**

## What will it take for us to achieve our goal?

*We will certainly need some large gifts. But, more importantly, we will need all of our community to give something beyond regular giving. This might be possible by each of us making small changes in our lifestyles: to sacrifice something that has value for something that we value more. We believe that making disciples of Jesus Christ across the street and around the world is of great worth.*

Gifts Needed	Gift Level	Annual Gift	Monthly Gift	Gift Level Total
2	30000	10000	833	60000
5	15000	5000	417	75000
10	7500	2500	208	75000
15	3000	1000	83	45000
30	1000	333	28	30000
Many	500	167	14	15000
			TOTAL:	300000

# Why are we doing this?

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## To fund a full-time pastoral salary

**By Claire Peterson, Offerings Leadership Team**

The past few years witnessed some pretty amazing changes for our community: two moves, a building purchase, huge growth in our children's ministry, two worship services, lots of new members, regular neighborhood events, Read to Succeed, adding an Assistant Pastor and a Fellow. We are a full-fledged, vibrant, active congregation. We have an energetic, joyful lead pastor who has so humbly shepherded us through this transition. And as we look at all the things that are now on Teddy's plate—leading this bustling congregation, serving at the whole church and conference level, heading up the Fellows Program, providing counsel and pastoral care to a much larger group of people—I think we all know that the position of “Lead Pastor” has become a full-time one. I am really excited to see us officially recognize that change moving forward! In addition to “new building,” “two services,” and “community engagement,” we can add “full-time pastor” to our areas of growth!

All of us who are part of this community have our own list of things we especially love about Offerings--the things that brought us here, the things that keep us here, and the things that just make our hearts glad. My own list of things I love about this community is long, but one of the items that would definitely be at the top of that list is how faithful this community is at caring for one another. I've gotten to see a ton of this first hand in the last few months--in cards and emails from people who remind me they are praying for me, in the abundance of freezer meals (many of them anonymous) that meant we had one less thing to worry about, in babysitting offers, and even a scarf to cover my scar! As I write this, I have never felt so physically weak, but I know I am surrounded by people who care.

As I look to the move to make Teddy officially full-time, I can't help but think of that move in terms of care. Yes, it's also definitely a justice issue--Teddy is clearly being entrusted with full-time work, which calls for full-time compensation. But we could also put this move in terms of gratitude and care: we're committing ourselves to providing for the needs of a person who so faithfully and humbly serves our community. And care in this context means all those boring but crucial things like family health insurance and retirement plans—the things the United Methodist Church (rightly) says are part of full-time ministry. I'm so glad to see us take this next step forward!

# Why are we doing this?

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## To eliminate our debt and increase community ministry

### By Daniel Wilmot, Offerings Lay Leader

As we discussed the history of Offerings at our family meeting last month, I was more convinced than ever that leaving West Chapel was the best way for us to continue developing. I saw clearly the growth we experienced, and how even in our brief time at Stone Road, we learned who we want to be as a community. I remain convinced that purchasing our property at Regency Road was the right choice for us, and I want to see us continue to thrive here.

Though we bought the Regency property for a good price, Offerings currently spends about \$1 out of every \$5 in giving in paying back the loan for our building. I am very proud of our community for being able to do this. It's not uncommon for a church our size to send a reduced amount in apportionments to the UMC. Also, we are the only United Methodist congregation in Kentucky in three decades to purchase our own property. I think this speaks to the commitment that our members have to Offerings, and to our desire to be good stewards of all the resources God gives us. The sooner we are able to pay the debt on our property, the more we are able to honor our commitment to our church.

We believe that Offerings is called to make a difference in our community, and to continue to make disciples across new streets. We want to be a place that knows our neighborhood, and is able to provide resources to those around us. Our vision for Offerings includes more programs like Room in the Inn, and Read to Succeed. Our dreams include being able to offer music and English classes, to work with El Jinete Celestial in outreach programs, and to simply be a positive presence in the community. We've been in this building just over a year and a half, and have already begun to meet many of our neighbors, and to show them that we desire to create long-term relationships. We also want to continue making disciples around the world by supporting missionaries that we've sent from our own congregation into faraway lands.

We are already making good on our commitment to pay for our property. Yet, if we truly want to continue growing and pursuing these opportunities, elimination of this debt will drastically free up our constrained resources. We've just taken a huge step in making our lead pastor position full-time, and we believe that is the best decision for the long-term health of our community. But of course, that increases our budget. And as the time approaches to begin a fourth, and even a fifth community, we want Offerings to be in a position to be able to send people to support these initiatives, without having to worry about how much our giving will be affected, and whether or not we can continue to make loan payments. We think that paying off our building's loan completely puts Offerings in the best position going forward.

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## **What is Offerings Act II: All In?**

Essentially, this is a capital campaign intended to eliminate the debt on our property at 2060 Regency Road. At the launch of Act II, this debt stands at nearly \$300,000. With the available resources following debt elimination, we will completely fund a full-time lead pastor position, as well as offer improved resources to the surrounding community.

Several years ago, First UMC held an Act One campaign. That campaign included setting aside funds for the Offerings move off the Downtown campus. Following our subsequent move to Regency Road, we believe that elimination of our property debt will be just as significant to the life of our congregation as was Act One, by promoting greater financial independence and facilitating fruitful ministry for years to come. “All In” represents our commitment to God and this church through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. In short, this campaign represents one of the ways in which we corporately express discipleship.

## **Is this campaign in response to a budget emergency?**

In a sense, no, in that we continue to meet all financial commitments necessary to maintain and modestly grow our annual budget, including regular payments to our mortgage. However, in a sense there is urgency as we have recently added a commitment to funding a full-time salary and benefits for our lead pastor position. This added commitment amounts to a \$15,130 annual increase to the Offerings budget, so that we may fund the minimum salary (as stipulated by the United Methodist Church) for a full-time pastor. Elimination of our mortgage on the Regency Road property will allow us to fund this salary and pursue new ministry opportunities.

## **Why now?**

Following payoff in three years, Offerings will save \$96,623 in interest while maintaining our cash reserves. Furthermore, it will allow us to establish and fund a true lead-pastor position for our congregation. We therefore believe this campaign is an appropriate course of action to address our present needs as well as cultivate vitality in our church and community in the years to come.

## **Is Act II giving more important than budget giving?**

No. Act II will be successful only if we continue to grow our annual budget at a modest pace, in addition to paying off our Regency Road debt in three years. Therefore, continued giving to the general budget is foundational. Act II represents giving over and above faithful giving to our budget.

## **What level of involvement can we anticipate from First United Methodist Church as a whole?**

Act II: All In represents the initiative of the Offerings community and the Offerings Leadership Team. This project will rest on the Offerings community to fund, though other church members have been generous to our community in the past, and their gifts would certainly be welcome.

## **How long will this take?**

We believe that with generous and sustained giving, we can eliminate the debt on our Regency Road property in three years. Of course, there is a possibility that we will pay off this debt sooner than three years or later, depending on the results of this effort.

## **Is this going to be hard?**

Most likely! In order to achieve this goal, Offerings will have to sustain our budget giving while also receiving \$100,000 per year in over-and-above giving. Furthermore, we are in uncharted waters as there has not been a new UMC congregation in Kentucky in the past 30 years to have purchased their own property. We believe this campaign will require sacrificial giving of the majority of our members, but we also believe this to be an achievable goal over the next three years.

# Important Dates

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**Please select one home meeting to attend**

Monday, January 15 @ 7:00 -  
Meeting at the Coplin home  
\* 501 N. Lexington Ave, Wilmore 40390

Wednesday, January 31 @ 6:00 -  
Meeting at the Bixler home  
\* 4260 Watertrace Dr, Lexington 40515

Sunday, January 21 @ 5:30 -  
Meeting at the Flannery home  
\* 4139 Winnepeg Ct, Lexington 40515

Sunday, February 3 @ 5:30 -  
Meeting at the Dominick home  
\* 4745 Scenicview Rd, Lexington 40514

Commitment Sunday & celebration.  
Sunday, February 11th

ACT II:



## Commitment Card

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

My/Our Yearly Regular Giving

\_\_\_\_\_

My/Our Prayerful Increase for ACT II

+ \_\_\_\_\_

My/Our Total ACT II and  
Annual Budget Giving

= \_\_\_\_\_

1 year

3 year



offerings

First United Methodist Church