

## **Calvary Campaign Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What work will be done?**

It partly depends on how much we raise, but the immediate plan is a 4-month steeple restoration in 2024 that includes scaffolding installation, repointing of mortar joints, selective brick replacement, stone patching and replacing, sheet metal repair and resurfacing, new roofing, and full masonry cleaning. New spotlights will not only emphasize the steeple's restored beauty, but also improve public safety on a currently dark corner.

### **Why is this restoration project and capital campaign happening *now*?**

There are many reasons, but two factors lead the way. Calvary has been awarded a \$200,000 grant from the [National Fund for Sacred Places](#). We won one of 16 grants out of 400 churches that applied in 2022. The second reason is an independent engineer's assessment showed we have urgent exterior work to do to protect the investment we made in interior spaces over the last 25 years.

We paired these reasons with Calvary's 140th anniversary and to honor Pastor Jeff's retirement in 2024, as he has been a key factor in the restoration of our facility these past 3 decades.

Finally - waiting costs. Every year we wait, inflation and weather deterioration raise the costs 10%.

### **Why is the fundraising goal \$1 million? What if you raise more?**

The \$1 million figure is based on a combination of need and feasibility. This is the true estimated cost for the most critical repairs. In fact, the total needed for the entire church exterior exceeds \$1M. The Calvary congregation and broader community make it feasible to raise this amount, a conclusion made based on an independent fundraising feasibility & engagement study.

If campaign giving exceeds the cost of the steeple restoration (currently estimated at \$750,000), Calvary will continue exterior restoration of the main sanctuary building in 2025-26, focusing on the most urgent foundation masonry and general tuckpointing, as well as facia, gutter and window repair.

### **How will we raise \$1 million?**

In addition to the \$200,000 grant Calvary has already secured, we expect to raise \$400,000 from within the Calvary congregation (over 3 years), and \$400,000 more from the broader community of past supporters, friends, and "alumni". An independent fundraising feasibility & engagement study conducted in 2023, combined with Calvary's history of successful fundraising supported a "dream goal" of \$1 million.

### What is our approach & history of investment in the facility?

From liability to asset! Pastor Jeff's mission and vision has always been to restore a badly neglected facility. He estimates over \$2M of materials, labor, and volunteer work have been invested over the past 3 decades.

Over the last decade we wrapped up a season of intentional investment in our interior spaces of more than \$700,000.

**Can Calvary successfully maintain a restored facility? Many old churches are closing due to declining membership and/or building maintenance - will Calvary be around in the future?** Our congregation is healthy with growing membership and over 100 children "enrolled" for Sunday school. Calvary's annual operating budget will continue to support general repair and maintenance. Calvary's strategic financial framework projects that tenant rent and congregant giving will sustain normal operations, as long as we can avoid urgent major repairs that 120 year old buildings, when neglected, can create.

### How much should I give?

Our hope is many will give, but all within their means. If we reach our \$1,000,000 goal it'll be with *hundreds of donations* ranging from \$50 to \$500 and even some \$5,000 to \$50,000. For those who wish, annual or monthly pledges into 2026 is an option to spread your gift out over time.

**3 YEAR TARGET: \$1,000,000**  
\$200k Grant + \$400k Congregation + \$400k Friends  
Congregation goal: 95% participation. Gifts of all sizes needed!

GIVING ESTIMATOR

GIFTS NEEDED	3-YEAR GIFT OF	MONTHLY GIFT OF
2	\$50,000	\$1,389
4	\$30,000	\$833
5	\$20,000	\$556
8	\$15,000	\$417
10	\$10,000	\$278
15	\$7,000	\$194
20	\$5,000	\$139
50+	\$100 - \$4,500	\$5 - \$125

*God's faithfulness continues to each generation.- Palm 100:5*

### Is my donation tax-deductible?

Calvary is a nonprofit, so yes. Donation receipts/letters will be issued by Jan 31 of the year following your gift.

**How will we pay for the work in 2024, when some pledges won't be paid in full until 2025 or 2026?** Calvary has a long-term reserve fund that we will borrow from in 2024 and then pay back with pledges in 2025 and 2026. Essentially a short-term loan to ourselves allows us to get the work done, save money, and have reserves to support the mission and ministry of Calvary into the future.

**What is the National Fund for Sacred Places (NFSP)?**

This national grant program helps congregations successfully navigate the capital project process through training, technical assistance, planning support, and matching capital grants. Learn more at: [www.fundforsacredplaces.org](http://www.fundforsacredplaces.org)

**How did Calvary win a \$200,000 grant to support the repairs?**

Calvary was one of 16 churches selected out of 400 applicants in 2022, based on three criteria which speak to the vibrancy and impact of Calvary's community:

- 1) Neighborhood impact- how the building is used by/benefits others
- 2) Historical & Architectural significance
- 3) Congregational Health - leadership, membership, attendance, and financials

**What is the fundraising and repair timeline? How will access to the church be impacted?**

Steeple restoration will start spring 2024 and wrap before winter. Church access will only be reduced in that the main corner doors will be closed. Sidewalks may also be closed at times. Sunday worship and all other indoor meetings, preschool, etc., will not be greatly impacted. The accessible ramp and door at the back of the church will remain open at all times.

**How long will these repairs last? Will Calvary's building need more major repairs any time soon?** The nature of the restoration work is of brick, stone, and mortar - the first real repairs of that kind on steeple since 1903. It is reasonable to predict restoration work of this type, once completed, will not be needed again for at least 75 years.

Also, we don't expect to do another capital campaign in the foreseeable future, instead tackling what remains gradually over time.

**Have other solutions—besides restoring the steeple—been considered?** Calvary is listed on the National Registry of History Places (since 2021) and with the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission (since 1995). Removing all or the top half of the steeple would require approval of both groups which would likely not be given. Even if granted, the cost of such work is estimated at more than \$500,000. Finally, there is a significant historical impact of modifying our building after years of preservation work - for us, Whittier, and the city.

**What is the Architectural Significance of Calvary's building?**

The 1889 Chapel (fellowship hall & youth room) was designed by Warren Hayes and placed in service just six months before the architect's death. The 1903 sanctuary was also designed by

Hayes, but constructed by local craftsmen under Harry Wild Jones. The 1928 "Parish House" (currently preschool, kids village, Glanton Hall, etc.) was also designed by Jones. Hayes was a leading church designer nationally and in Minneapolis, often using Richardsonian Romanesque styles. Calvary is considered one of Hayes' best works in Minneapolis as exterior brick was used versus stone. Jones was a member of Calvary and a well-known Minneapolis architect. One of his most famous designs on the National Register is the stunning Lakewood Cemetery Chapel in Minneapolis. Outside of the historical churches in downtown Minneapolis, Calvary is one of the most structurally impressive churches with a thriving congregation in the city.