FORWARD FINANCING FAQ

A Resource for Community Group Leaders

As we continue moving Forward together, we want to equip our Community Group Leaders to understand the next step in our campus expansion and answer questions that may arise in their groups.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PURSUE FINANCING RIGHT NOW?

Throughout Forward, we've communicated the practical needs of our growing church, including additional worship space, expanded children's ministry areas, improved lobby and gathering spaces, and more parking. We believe God has called us to advance the gospel together from our church, for the city, to the nations.

A key part of fulfilling that calling is building a facility that will allow us to welcome more people, expand our ministry, and serve our community for generations to come. Financing, alongside the continued generosity of our church family, will help us move forward with this vision.

HOW MUCH MONEY IS THE CHURCH PLANNING TO BORROW?

On November 8, members will vote on authorizing our Directional Elder Board to access up to $30 million in financing over a five-year period beginning on the date of congregational approval. This represents the maximum authorized borrowing amount, not necessarily what we will borrow. The desire of our Directional Elders is to minimize borrowing through wise spending and the continued generosity of our church family. This authorization would provide the flexibility to fully fund our new Worship Center, support expanded ministry, and pursue other strategic opportunities God may provide.

WHY ARE CHURCH MEMBERS VOTING ON FINANCING?

As a congregationally accountable, elder-led church, our bylaws provide important guardrails that keep our church on mission and accountable. Our bylaws require a congregational vote and approval for five significant decisions, including taking on financing. The upcoming vote is part of this established process of congregational accountability and oversight.

WHO HAS REVIEWED AND RECOMMENDED THIS FINANCING APPROACH?

This approach has been carefully evaluated and is being recommended with the full support of our Business Team, Directional Elder Board, and Leadership Team. We've also received conditional approval from multiple lending institutions that have independently evaluated our financial position and ability to manage the proposed financing. The next step is to bring this recommendation before our church membership for approval.

HOW CAN WE BE CONFIDENT THE CHURCH WON'T BORROW MORE THAN IT CAN RESPONSIBLY MANAGE?

Financial stewardship is a priority, and multiple layers of accountability are in place. Each year, Christ Community undergoes an independent, third-party financial audit. These audited statements are shared with our Business Team, Directional Elder Board, and lending partners, providing transparency and accountability. Additionally, lenders conduct their own financial evaluations before extending financing, providing another independent assessment of our ability to repay what we borrow. Our leadership is committed to protecting the long-term financial health and ministry effectiveness of our church.

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ADVANCING THE GOSPEL TOGETHER

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WHAT STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO MINIMIZE CONSTRUCTION COSTS AND BORROWING?

We are working diligently to steward our resources wisely and have taken several steps to control costs:

- **Building for our needs: Creating functional spaces without unnecessary additions.**
- **Value engineering: Identifying savings in design, materials, and construction without sacrificing functionality.**
- **Leveraging relationships: Working with church members and trusted partners to secure favorable pricing on key portions of the project.**
- **Minimizing borrowing: Continuing to evaluate ways to reduce costs and maximize the impact of our church family's generosity.**

Our goal is to build a facility that meets our ministry needs while exercising careful financial stewardship.

WHY DOES THE FINANCING AUTHORIZATION EXTEND FOR FIVE YEARS?

The five-year authorization, beginning on the date of congregational approval, provides flexibility as we navigate construction and future ministry opportunities. Construction timelines, economic conditions, and ministry needs can change. This authorization allows our Directional Elder Board to make responsible financing decisions within the approved limit without requiring an additional congregational vote for each decision. It also positions our church to respond to strategic ministry opportunities that may arise during that period.

HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

We want every member of Christ Community to feel informed as we take this next step together.
If someone in your Community Group has questions you aren't able to answer, please direct them to email us at *forward@christcommunity.com*, and a member of our Leadership Team will reach out directly to them.

Thank you for your supportive leadership in this exciting moment!

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