



Vision Case Statement

God has brought us to a great place. As churches around us have struggled to recover from COVID and denominational division, we have come through these past 4 years remarkably, miraculously, well. We have seen increases in nearly everything that can be counted. Our youth has increased. Our children have increased. Our Second Winders have increased. Our choir has increased. Our Sunday School classes have increased. Our adult discipleship classes have increased. Our women's and men's groups have increased. Our worship participation, in person and online, has increased. Our financial support has increased. Our participation and support in missions has increased. Additionally, after quickly raising a significant amount of money in a very short time, we have been able to disaffiliate from our previous denomination, join the Global Methodist Church, and make significant improvements to our facility over the last two years – all without incurring debt. It's truly remarkable. All glory to God for his grace, wisdom, and provision that has carried us here!

Today St. Mark's does indeed stand in a great place, but also with significant needs. We are blessed with a wonderful, "right-sized" facility. Many churches have built very large facilities over the past 50 years to meet the needs of that era. But ministry needs have shifted over the past decade, and now many are left with a larger building than is helpful. St. Mark's wisely maximized the use of our building, stayed out of debt, and now we are blessed with a facility that is a great size for current and future ministry needs. But that facility needs some updating. With denominational issues looming and the possibility that we might need to relinquish our building to stay true to our convictions, St. Mark's made the prudent decision to not invest in major renovations. Today we own our debt-free building, and the time has now come to invest in making it better able to meet current and future ministry needs, reflect the pride we have in our church, and, most importantly, glorify the God who has brought us to this place.

After working with and getting the approval of both the Administrative Council and Finance Committee, our Trustees compiled a list of potential projects to include in this campaign. We next sought and received feedback from many members of the congregation to refine those projects. They are of various sizes and costs and cover nearly every area of our facility. The first two on the following list are the most pressing, most extensive, and will be the most expensive. Because of this, we are working with an architect who specializes in church renovation. We do not yet have renderings or cost estimates on those projects but are prayerfully discerning what needs to be accomplished.

1. FAMILY LIFE CENTER/BARNETT HALL

- a. **Summary/Needs/Goals:** Our Family Life Center & Barnett Hall need help. This space hosts an enormous amount of ministry. Our Youth, SM Kids, Children's Day Out, Kings & Queens, Men's Breakfast, Wednesday Evening meals, All Church Fellowship meals, Scouts, major community events like the Women's Craft Fair and CDO Chili Cookoff, and nearly countless other ministries call this area home. It is a crucial area for our church. And yet it is not in good shape. The restrooms are nearly unusable and extremely unwelcoming. The classrooms are in dire need of remodeling. The flooring has become a safety hazard. The original purpose of much of the space is no longer what it is being used for. And, overall, it is simply tired and worn to the point that ministries stay away from it if possible. We will make our FLC/Barnett Hall area an inviting and exciting place for ministry. We will give our youth a dedicated and first-class area for ministry. We will create an area that is attractive and efficient for current and future Sunday School classes. We will update and expand our restroom facilities for convenience, comfort and to keep current with building codes. And we will have a wonderful and attractive multi-purpose space for large gatherings that is easily accessible to all people.
- b. **Cost:** To be determined

2. MAIN RESTROOMS

- a. **Summary/Needs/Goals:** Restrooms are very important for hospitality. Clean, safe, inviting, and well-functioning restroom facilities communicate a level of care for both guests and members. Our main restrooms are not currently conveying the level of care we have for people. We need more space in our women's restroom, both restrooms need refurbishment, and we are required by the building code to add a family restroom. We will make our bathrooms more functional and aesthetically pleasing. This not only provides care for our current members, but it creates a more hospitable atmosphere for visitors.
- b. **Cost:** To be determined

3. LOBBY/ENTRANCE

- a. **Summary/Needs/Goals:** The lobby/entry is where we build community. It is where we greet guests and meet our long-time friends. We are blessed with a great space, but it needs redecoration, refurbishing, a better place for coffee and donuts, and a layout that allows for traffic flow without bottlenecks. With the help of our architect, we will redesign and redecorate the lobby area of our church to be more welcoming and functional.
- b. **Approximate Cost:** \$70,000

4. VANS

- a. **Summary/Needs/Goals:** Our vans are crucial to our ministry. They take children and youth to camps, mission trips, and other activities beyond our campus. They are also used by various adult groups for off-site ministry. These vans move our most precious possession – our people. They need to be safe and reliable. We currently have two vans, both are in good mechanical shape, but aging. Neither is easily accessible for adults. We will purchase a new van/shuttle bus that is more accessible for our senior adults and that allows all groups within the church to travel safely and comfortably. We will also add a garage to protect the vans from weather and theft.
- b. **Approximate Cost:** \$75,000.

5. SANCTUARY REFURBISHMENTS/UPDATES

- a. **Summary/Needs/Goals:** The sanctuary is the heart of the church. It is where we glorify God in worship, baptize our children, and say goodbye to our saints. It needs to reflect the beauty of God and the honor due him. Our carpets are worn and coming undone, creating a tripping hazard. We will replace the carpets with new flooring in the entire sanctuary. We also now know that before a person ever steps foot into St. Mark's they will almost always watch a service online. How our worship service is presented online is crucial for whether they attend in person. We have made significant strides in upgrading our online sound but have not upgraded the visual experience. We will install new LED stage lighting and add another camera to enhance online, and in-person worship.
- b. **Approximate Cost:** \$45,000.

6. CHILDREN'S AREA

- a. **Summary/Needs/Goals:** Our children's area is wonderfully busy nearly every day of the week. It is a great joy that we have so many children filling the house of God and we need to continue to make a positive first impression on young families when they come to the church. This constant activity, combined with the need for the floors to be clean, neat, and safe, means it is time to replace the floors throughout the children's area. Additional needs include two Dutch doors, permanent countertops and cabinets, playground improvements, paint, and updated marker boards.
- b. **Approximate Cost:** \$60,000.

7. PARKING LOT

- a. **Summary/Needs/Goals:** Before a person enters the church, their first experience on our campus is in the parking lot. Is it easy to navigate, well-marked, and well-maintained? It is also important, especially for our elderly members, that our parking surfaces are safe and that we have sufficient handicapped spaces. Currently, sections of our parking areas need resurfacing and the entirety of our parking needs restriping. We also need updated handicapped parking. We will be resurfacing, striping, and updating the handicapped spaces.
- b. **Approximate Cost:** \$50,000

8. FURNITURE/SECURITY CAMERAS/MISC. FURNISHINGS

- a. **Summary/Needs/Goals:** As we improve all the areas of the church there will be additional “details” that also need taken care of that don’t fit into any one category. We know we need new tables and chairs throughout the building. We need to add at least one handicapped exterior door that opens automatically. As we improve building usage, we will need new shelving for new storage areas. We will need to add exterior security cameras to protect our investment. We will most likely need some additional furniture in various spaces.
- b. **Approximate Cost:** \$60,000

9. ROOF

- a. **Summary/Needs/Goals:** Our building’s structural integrity is of the utmost importance. It does us no good to make the interior aesthetically pleasing if the roof leaks and is causing damage. We need a new roof over rooms 17, 18, and 19.
- b. **Approximate Cost:** \$85,000

Once again, God has brought us to a great place. Our past was blessed, our present is exciting, and our future is bright. We have challenges, but God has positioned us well so that, with his leadership and guidance, those challenges will be overcome. Thank you for your faithfulness to God through St. Mark’s and your love for Christ and his church. God has brought us to this place, but this is not where he leaves us. There is even more in store. The best is yet to come!