



4 Our Churches FAQ Sheet

1. How was the money used that was raised during the *Make a Difference Campaign*, the last capital campaign run by the conference?

The *Make a Difference Campaign* was over 15 years ago, but it still has an impact today. We are still receiving resources from the national church made possible through our gifts to this campaign. The money held at the Conference level continues to feed two funds: the first is the Endowment Fund of the conference which responds to emergencies among our pastors and churches, and the second, which supports Hartman Center.

2. When can the conference start spending the money that is raised?

We have already contracted with civil engineers who are engaged in site study in preparation for the Hartman Center building. We expect to hire an architect in 2008. The new church planning team has completed its demographic study, and in early 2008 the vitality group will be engaging a professional trainer for the road to vitality program for churches.

3. What is the priority of funding the campaign projects?

All of the projects are equally important in our conference and we expect to raise the funds for all of them.

4. When can the Hartman center building project be started? What if the full amount isn't raised? Will the building project be scaled back or will some other aspect of the campaign be unfunded?

We hope to start building the the Hartman Center Multipurpose Building in the fall of 2008. We have every reason to believe that we can raise the full amount; the feasibility study indicates that the money is available. The question of scaling back is premature because we are only beginning the commitment phase of the campaign and we believe in a God who provides for our needs.

5. Will the new building at Hartman Center drive up the cost of the summer camp? i.e., will the increased utilities and personnel to maintain the building cause rates to go up?

No! The Multipurpose Building will mean more groups using Hartman Center, and therefore more groups helping with costs. Therefore we do not expect the cost of summer camp to increase dramatically. In fact if we build green, as we are hoping to do, our maintenance costs will be more affordable.

6. Where does Beecher Memorial stand? Are they worshipping in the building? How much of the building is rebuilt? Who is the pastor, what are the ministry directions now, as a result of the changed circumstances in New Orleans? Is it realistic to fund Beecher with \$400,000 or so if it is only going to fold anyway?

Beecher is currently under roof, worshipping in the building, and many but not all of the people are back. The main construction has not begun but they hope to begin early in year. Bernice Powell Jackson is the part time interim. The congregation is anxious to search for a permanent pastor, but part of that depends on money. It is certainly reasonable to help in this way. We are not the only funding sources. It will cost well over 1 million dollars to totally rebuild. They have already received \$300,000 from an insurance settlement and gifts from other churches. Our \$400,000 will be instrumental in enabling them to rebuild. The congregation is not likely to fold because they intensely considered the decision to stay, and believe that as long as there is a city, they have a distinct mission in that city. They are already engaged in mission: they are the location for a truancy program in which Beecher members are assisting with a grant being used to pay stipends. Leadership is incredible.

7. Why have a Campaign now when we have trouble meeting budgets?

The conference is being proactive in dealing with its budget challenges. We are balancing our budget at the end of each year, and in the same way a stewardship campaign raises awareness in the local church to financial need, this campaign will as well. We believe that it will also strengthen relationships between local churches and the conference which will lead to improved funding.

8. Should we budget for Capital Campaign?

No, the 4 Our Churches Capital Campaign is and should be an opportunity above and beyond our local church budget. Many churches will find this a golden opportunity to run a partnership campaign to repair and renew local facilities and also to raise funds for 4 Our Churches.