


July 14, 2020

Dear Eternal Community,

It is with great joy that we are starting to see signs of regathering together as a covenant community in person. Although we want to do our part and exercise prudence as we continue to monitor the pandemic, we see the Lord moving in and through these times. As a body, we have seen blessing after blessing from our Lord despite the restraints on our meeting together. Let us say upfront, this is a long letter! However, it includes vital information about the state of our church, including:

- Recent Developments
- Financial State of the Church
- Step of Faith Building Campaign
- Unique “Challenge Gift” Proposed By Anonymous Donor



**Don't miss
reading about this
matching grant**

Recent Developments

Over the last several months, we have seen multiple instances of the Lord's hand at work. We hope the news below is as encouraging to you as it has been to the Session.

- The current balance of our COVID-19 Relief Fund has grown to over \$59K based on your generous donations. To date, we have distributed over \$8,000 to five families in our congregation and given over \$2,000 to Pathways of Rock Hill. If you or someone you know is in need, please let us know. We are actively looking for ways to deploy these valuable resources.
- This time has forced us to think creatively about how to function as a church in different ways. We have sharpened our skills at mobilizing the Gospel through technology (i.e., Zoom meetings and Bible studies, YouTube, Facebook livestreaming, etc.).
- We have expanded the number of elders and deacons who have accepted God's call to serve as a result of your nominations, as well as welcomed our newest members.
- We have conducted training for our existing and new elders as part of implementing an elder shepherding model. A shepherding elder has been assigned to each covenant family member and those who have joined a community group. Each shepherding elder has made a commitment to be a resource to you, someone who can listen to your hurts and concerns and encourage you in your walk with Jesus, through both the mountain tops and valleys, and anywhere in between.
- We delivered personal letters from our pastor to our future neighbors on O'Henry Road and expressed our desire to be good neighbors to them. We were able to pray with some of them and invite them to Eternal (depending on whether they already have a church home).

Financial State of the Church

God has blessed our body financially. Eternal is stronger than ever before from a financial perspective. Here are a few YTD highlights through June 30, 2020 compared to the same period during 2019:

Fiscal Year	10/01/2018-6/30/2019	10/01/2019-6/30/2020
General Fund Tithes	\$ 586,262	\$ 671,995
Step of Faith Cash Balance @ 6/30	\$ 576,920	\$ 1,138,669
COVID Relief Fund	--	\$ 59,580
General Fund Expenses	\$ 425,746	\$ 454,129

Unique “Challenge Gift” Proposed By Anonymous Donor

As mentioned above, we have just received another surprise blessing which we would like to share with you. An anonymous donor, with a desire to reignite our Step of Faith toward a church building, has committed to:

1. Make a one-time gift of cash of \$50,000, and
2. Make a matching dollar-for-dollar gift up to another \$50,000 if our congregation can raise additional funds in the form of new pledges received by October 15th and payable by the end of 2020 (not counting amounts already pledged)

This is wonderful news!

Step of Faith Building Campaign

Enclosed with this letter are a series of charts which illustrate where we are in terms of our building campaign and where we still need your help. The matching gift will go a long way to reducing the projected cash flow gap of just over \$325,000 in our current fundraising before we can proceed to build. If you have questions or would like to discuss further, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Step of Faith team at stepoffaith@eternalchurch.net and someone will contact you.

We serve a great God who has blessed us with faithful and diligent staff, faithful and God-fearing leaders, a loving and deeply engaged covenant community, and a beautiful and incomprehensibly valuable Gospel to share at any moment. Lives ARE being changed right now. His Kingdom is still, and maybe even more greatly, moving in our midst.

While fear abounds in our community and in our world, we cling to the hope we have in Jesus and continue to be overwhelmed by the fruit He is producing in us and around us. We reflect upon these times and choose to focus on God's provision and grace. We will press on and keep our eyes open for opportunities to advance His Kingdom.

We recognize that many of you are new and may have missed the last formal pledge process. So, we want to formally invite you to consider joining us in this step of faith, seeking to glorify God in our community by making a commitment no matter how large or small; your contributions are welcome. You can either email Lizzy Richardson, our financial administrator, (lizzy@eternalchurch.net) your pledge amount or you can obtain and complete a pledge card. We will have pledge cards in the back of each service on Sunday or you can pick up a pledge card at the Shack (1787 Pleasant Drive, Fort Mill, SC 29708). Instead of asking for four-year pledges, we are now asking folks to consider a two-year pledge. Additionally, if some of you are in a position to accelerate your pledges up from 2021 and 2022 into this year, that may help close the funding gap required to begin construction.

If God is leading you to help us meet this matching gift and close the remaining gap, all gifts towards Step of Faith can be made at our website, through the Eternal app, or by check mailed to the church office.

As we look back and see God's hand at work, who would have imagined just two-and-a-half short years ago that we would now:

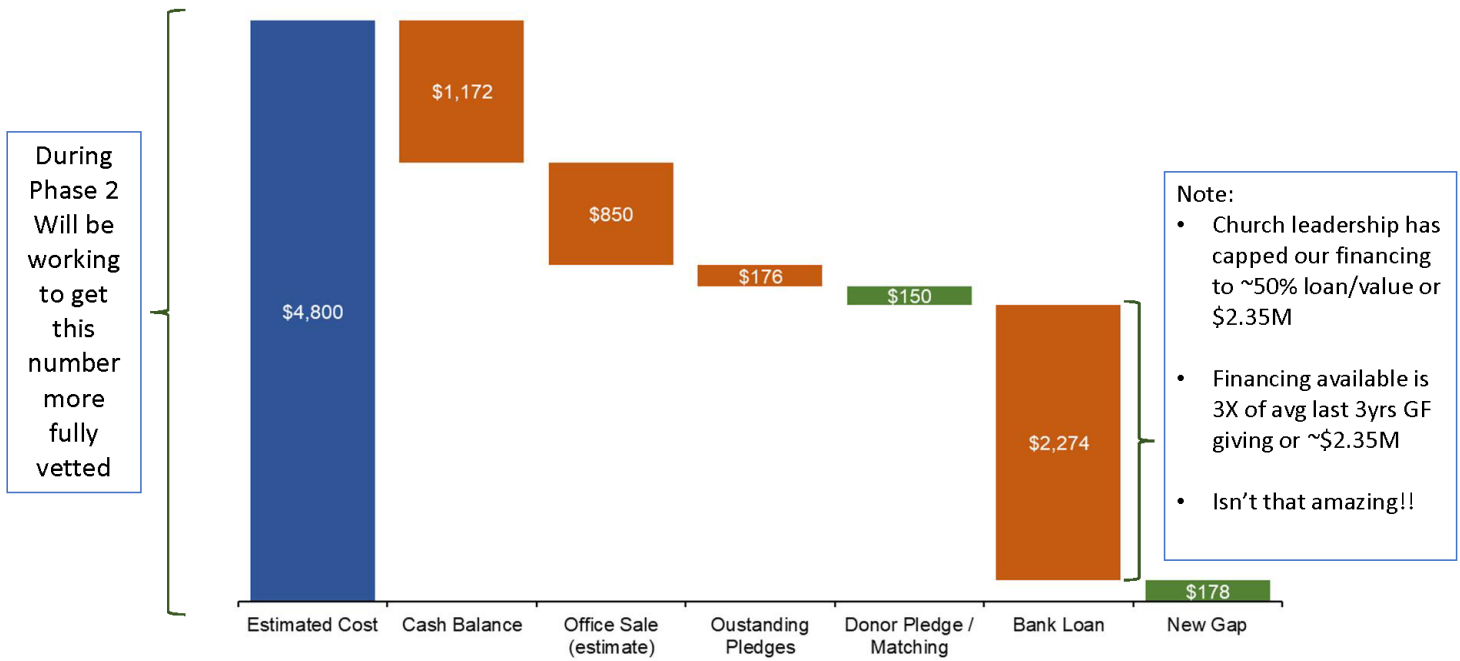
- Own nine acres of land for our new church homesite, debt free
- Own church office property valued between \$700K-\$900K or more with no debt, and
- Have approximately \$1.2 million in cash towards our building fund (with close to \$400K of future pledges yet to be received)

These are truly remarkable developments, and we are so close to taking the next Step of Faith towards the actual building process. The Session anticipates making some material decisions regarding our building program over the next few months. We hope this information is as encouraging to you as it is to the entire church staff, elders, deacons and Step of Faith team. The Lord is doing amazing things despite the pandemic and swirling events. He is moving and we are all so privileged to witness it and to be able to participate.

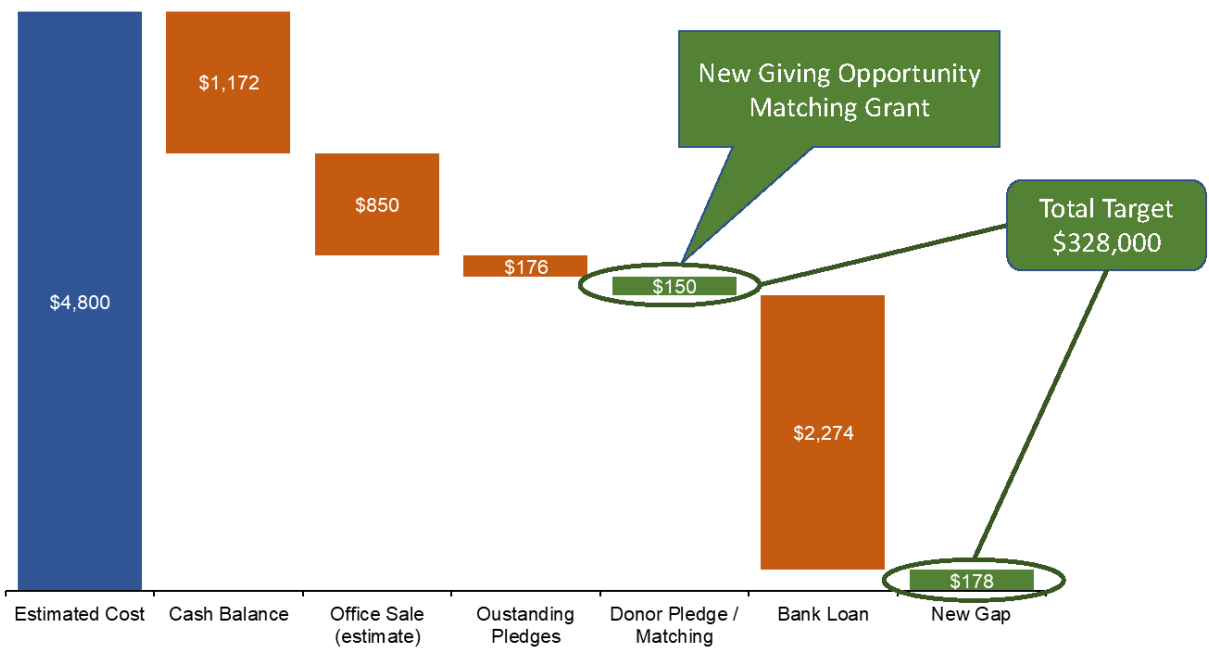
What a beautiful story God is writing for Eternal. All glory, honor and power be to our Lord and Savior!

Eternal Church Session

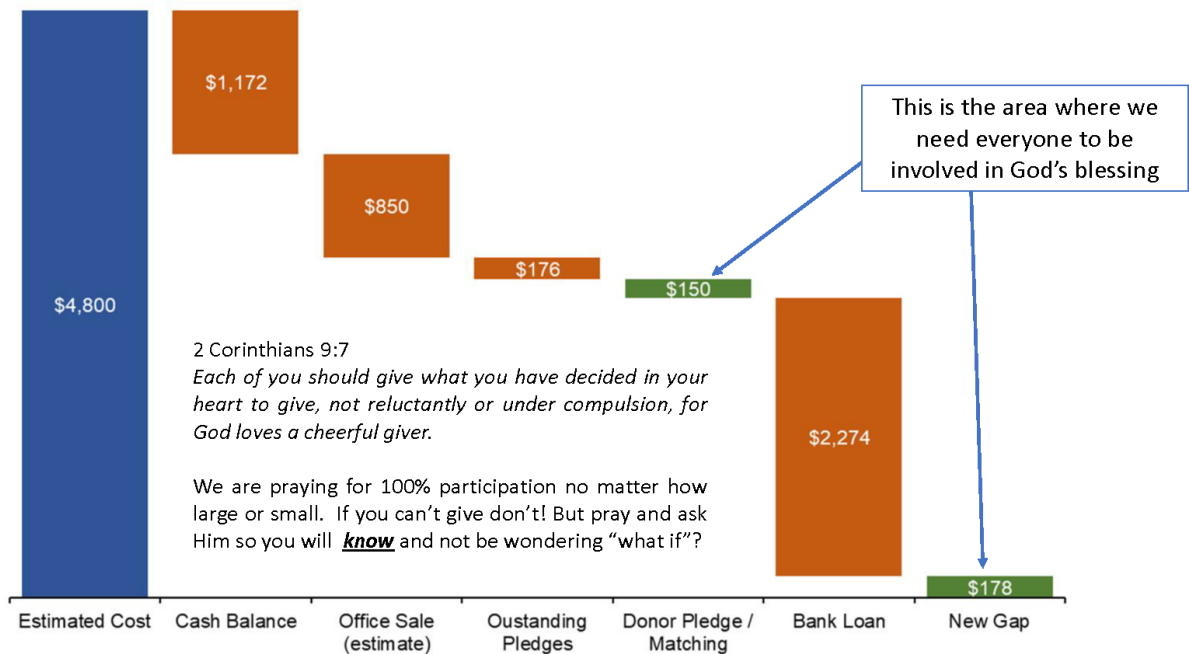
Building for Greater Ministry
Step of Faith Current Status



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Prayer Requests for Building for Greater Ministry

- **For God's provision** - That He would provide in obvious and amazing ways.
- **For God's direction** - That God would continue to make it clear where we should go at every turn.
- **For God's timing** - There are many moving parts and logistics that will need to be worked out over time.
- **For Growth** - That all of us would be building our relationships with God and with each other as we journey together.
- **For Step Of Faith team** - For guidance and wisdom as many questions are asked and answered over the next months.
- **For Patience** - That we would in all ways abide in Him knowing He is the author and perfecter of our faith and ministry!