

Vision 2030



Dear Church family,

I believe that the Vision 2030 campaign is the most important initiative that our congregation has embarked upon in a generation. We stand at a pivotal point in our church's history. Not only that, but we also stand at a pivotal point in American culture. The need for Christian believers to be equipped to evangelize the current generation has never been clearer.



Two years ago, a new mission statement emerged out of the responses I received from our church members when I asked them about the identity of First Methodist Church. That mission statement says, **"We are called to raise up fully committed followers of Jesus Christ who are grounded in the Word, alive in the Spirit, and sent on Mission."** We will be a vital and growing church if we pursue this mission with everything we have — I truly believe that!

Vision 2030 is meant to galvanize us for this work. In Second Kings chapter 22, King Josiah realizes that God's house has been neglected. So he sets about to restore the Temple. In the process of that restoration, the "Book of the Law" is discovered where it had been laid aside and neglected for many years (which was probably Deuteronomy). Josiah uses its discovery as a way to call the people to repentance and recommitment to the Lord. There is this wonderful confluence of events in King Josiah's story: the restoration of the temple and the recommitment of the people's faith.

As we have been moving through this year and putting the pieces into place for vision 2030, I've been drawn more and more to Josiah's story. We are going to raise \$5.5 million for the capital campaign portion of Vision 2030, which will go for the restoration of God's house at 1115 S. Boulder Ave. But my hope is that the restoration of our church facilities will be done in conjunction with a deep recommitment on our part!

This is why we are talking about Vision 2030 in terms of renewing discipleship, releasing for evangelism, and restoring the church. It is the renewal for discipleship and release for evangelism that will be the heart project to go along with the bricks and mortar project of church renovation. All of them are needed and all of them will help to propel us forward to the work God has called us to do over the next five years. May the Holy Spirit lead the way!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Andrew C. Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Andrew C. Thompson
Lead Pastor

Renew. Release. Restore.

God is calling First Methodist Church into a bold new season through the Vision 2030 Campaign—a movement that energizes and equips our congregation to bear lasting fruit for Jesus Christ and His Kingdom. Guided by prayerful discernment and the faithful input of our pastoral team and lay leadership, Vision 2030 positions our church for the next season of life together as we step fully into a new country of ministry and mission. This vision centers on three clear areas of focus:

- **RENEW** discipleship by asking God to lead us deeper into places—in our lives, our city, and our world—that we have never gone before.
- **RELEASE** our potential for evangelism right where we live, amid the unique challenges and opportunities of today's cultural moment.
- **RESTORE** our physical facilities so they remain a vital resource for ministry for generations to come.

**GROUNDING IN THE WORD.
ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT.
SENT ON MISSION.**



How We Got Here

The congregation of First Methodist Church stands at the edge of a new country. Over the past five years, we have weathered two seismic shifts that have tested and refined us: first, the disruption of the Covid pandemic, and then the faithful decision to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church—stepping boldly into a new season as an independent congregation. Where some might see threats, we see God-given opportunities. Like Israel leaving Egypt, we leave the familiar behind and move toward the land God has promised.

In 2024, Pastor Andrew gathered fifteen committed lay leaders to pray, discern, and lay the foundation for what began as FMC 2030. Out of their faithful work and our church's growing momentum, the Vision 2030 Campaign took shape—a unified call to renew discipleship, release evangelistic potential, and restore our facilities to serve our mission far into the future.



Why Now?

The twin shifts of recent years show that we cannot settle for the status quo. The early church never stood still—it pressed outward, claiming new ground for the Kingdom of God. From Jesus sending the disciples two-by-two (Luke 9), to His Great Commission to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28), to the fire of Pentecost and the mission of Paul, we inherit a movement that advances by faith and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Vision 2030 serves as the catalyst for this next faithful step. Now is the time to stand firm in the Word, come alive in the Spirit, and be sent on Mission. A new country awaits. The Holy Spirit stands ready to pour out power, purpose, and provision as we renew, release, and restore for the sake of His Kingdom—and bear lasting fruit for Jesus Christ.

Renew Discipleship

Our Vision for Discipleship

“Follow me.”

That is the summons Jesus gives to each one of us. When we follow him, we learn to be his disciples. As we live out our discipleship to Jesus, we grow more and more into the men and women he wants us to be.

The items in this area focus on renewing our commitment to deep, life-changing discipleship for every generation. We know that following Jesus is a lifelong journey—one that grows stronger when we learn, serve, and walk alongside one another in authentic community. Our church has a rich legacy of nurturing faith through Bible study, small groups, classes, and mentoring, and now is the time to build on that foundation with fresh vision and energy.



KIDS' MINISTRY

In Matthew 19:14, Jesus says, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” Our Lord calls even our children to come and follow Him which is why the attention of our Kids' Ministry is focused on a simple discipleship plan: Learn God (Word), Know God (Spirit), Love God's People (Mission). Our vision means that our children will know the Bible, experience the presence of God in their lives, and serve those around them so that we fulfill the Scriptural command, “Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it” (Proverbs 22:6).

YOUTH MINISTRY

Young people today face challenges that most of us never had to deal with when we were their age. From the ever-shifting landscape of technology, to the questions of identity, and the ceaseless onslaught of messages from social media, school, and peers, we must challenge the malforming influence of the evil one among our youth with conviction and strength. This requires us to stand firm in the truth and in our commitment to help our youth become fully committed followers of Jesus Christ who are grounded in the Word, alive in the Spirit, and sent on Mission.

This past summer, we brought Blake Broadhurst on board our staff team as our new youth director. Blake is already hard at work crafting a new vision for our youth ministry that will carry us into the years ahead. His commitment to teaching, discipling youth, and going on mission is the ideal combination we need to help rebuild and revitalize our ministry with teens. With Blake's leadership, we will integrate youth more fully into the life of our church.

We are committed to an intergenerational integration of our youth program that sees our young people as apprentices to Jesus Christ through the ministry of mature and faithful believers.



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

We launched a new young adult ministry in the church 18 months ago to provide a discipleship pathway for adults ages 18 to 35 in our church. A few months later, we brought Hannah Wells on board our staff to lead that program. We have seen great growth in our young adult ministry since then, and it is an area to which we will keep giving attention and focus. A strong young adult ministry will help the church to be vital and growing. It helps us to reach young women and men who are in transition stages of their lives both in

school and in the workplace. The aim of our young adult ministry is to provide a strong community where young adult individuals and families can sink roots as they grow in their faith.



ADULT DISCIPLESHP

Jesus teaches that in the last days people will be led astray, lawlessness will increase, and as a result the love of many will grow cold. But, He says, the one who endures to the end will be saved (Matthew 24:11-13). It is imperative that we not just endure but also thrive as followers of Jesus Christ. Through initiatives in a new Center for Healing Prayer, we will include opportunities to learn how to pray and do the work of prayer. Through workshops, classes, and our annual Holy Spirit Conference, we will grow in the area of prayer as we never have before. The work of the Center for Healing Prayer will equip every other area of our discipleship ministries: classes, studies, small groups, the Thrive Women's Ministry, and the Barnabas Men's Ministry.

For the past two years, our pastors have been developing the concept of a "Kingswood School of Ministry" to equip our members for practical discipleship. The Kingswood school was founded by John Wesley during the height of the Methodist Revival in England to train up the young in the knowledge and practice of the faith. The first step for us has been the development of a deeper and broader Wednesday evening discipleship program through challenging courses in Bible, prayer, worship, and church history. We will continue to develop the Kingswood concept as a way to deepen discipleship and raise up leaders.

Discipleship Capital Project

FIRST KIDS / EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY.....\$100,000

We have several areas in our First Kids and Early Learning Academy facilities that would benefit from an update and a refresh. Over the last few years we have been able to devote small resources to improving our elementary area on the lower level with new carpet and paint, creating a more engaging and inviting space for our elementary students to engage in small groups. Our preschool ministry areas are in need of an update as well.

Three updates, including new indoor play equipment for our preschool playroom, a new playground surface for the preschool playground (Main Street side), and new window coverings for the preschool classrooms, would provide a safer play experience for our smallest friends and provide our classroom teachers with the ability to better control the light coming into their rooms, particularly during weekday naptime!



Release Evangelism

Our Vision for Evangelism

“Come and see.” That was Philip’s statement to Nathanael when he wanted to introduce him to Jesus in John 1:46. Those three simple words capture the heart of evangelism. It is about inviting people to know Jesus. When nonbelievers meet Jesus and begin to truly know him, they find their lives transformed.

We are using the word “release” in connection with evangelism for a specific reason. Our congregation already has a great deal of evangelistic potential. We have hundreds of spiritually mature Christian believers in our church who know Jesus deeply. They are knowledgeable in the Scriptures and committed to the life of prayer. All of that means that equipping our members for evangelism is really about releasing the potential that is already inside of them!

Our commitment is for evangelism to permeate every part of what we do as a church: our preaching, our worship, our Bible teaching, our Sunday school program, and our prayer ministry must all be shaped by it. We want every member of our church to feel equipped to share their faith with others and invite them to know Jesus. We believe God has positioned us here, in the heart of Tulsa, to be a light in places where darkness tries to take hold. Every ministry, every gathering, every outreach is an opportunity to build relationships and boldly invite people into the story of Jesus. Just as our campus serves as a launching point for discipleship, we are called to step outside its walls with courage, compassion, and creativity in the work of evangelism.

A congregation committed to evangelism is a congregation that is going to grow. We want to see our church get bigger—with more people in worship, more people in Sunday school classes, and more children and youth. The point of greater numbers is not simply to be bigger; it is important rather because it represents more people receiving salvation and growing in the grace of God.

Evangelism Capital Project

THE LAWN AT CATHEDRAL SQUARE (STRETCH GOAL).....\$500,000

The results of our congregational survey showed that the membership of our church has a strong preference that we focus our fundraising in the capital campaign to repair God’s house. That means that we will be putting renovation projects at the top of our list. However, if we can raise money above and beyond our stated goal of \$5.5 million, then it opens up the possibility of doing something creative that we might not have been able to do otherwise.

The potential project that has captured the imagination of most of the people in our church is the new green space we have on the corner of Main and 10th Streets. The demolition of the Burgraff and Radio Inc. buildings has allowed us to create one of the larger green spaces in downtown Tulsa.

The natural slope of the space (from northwest to southeast) creates an amphitheater effect, which could be a huge benefit for doing outdoor ministry events. This new feature of our campus has the potential to be a great tool of evangelistic outreach. With the right infrastructure in place, we could hold events like back-to-school parties, movies, concerts, picnics, and worship/preaching services, etc.



Restore Facilities

Our Vision for Our Facilities

As portions of our facility near the century mark, it is time to breathe new life into our beloved campus—a sacred space in downtown Tulsa where lives are transformed every day. We have a remarkable physical home that welcomes our community for worship, discipleship, children’s learning, fellowship, recreation, and so much more. Just as the renewed Boulder Avenue parking lot now invites people in with warmth and care, the rest of our campus is ready to be restored and reimagined to serve as a vibrant hub of ministry in the heart of our city.

Facility Capital Projects

ELEVATOR RENOVATION AND REFURBISHMENT.....\$750,000

We have four elevators throughout our complex. One of these elevators needs major renovation, and two others need to be modernized. This is essential to provide access to all our ministry spaces for people of different ages and abilities.

HVAC REPLACEMENTS.....\$3,500,000 (YFC & MAIN CAMPUS)

In a physical campus as large as ours, the need to repair and replace air conditioning units is constant. By committing to significant HVAC renovation now, we can overcome a problem of deferred maintenance and get ahead of where we need to be in a replacement schedule. These replacements are essential to provide conditioned spaces for ministry to all ages: children, youth, and adults.

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL SECURITY MEASURES.....\$350,000

The addition of a state-of-the-art interior and exterior camera system, as well as improvements to access points around campus, will provide enhanced security for our children, youth, and adults as we gather for worship, community, and other ministry activities.

MISC. FACILITIES RENOVATIONS..... \$500,000 (CARPET, FURNITURE, RESTROOMS, ETC)

This category of improvements includes several rooms and hallways in the church that are in need of renovation to continue providing the right atmosphere for our discipleship ministries.



PARRIOTT MEMORIAL PIPE ORGAN\$300,000

In 1928, nearly a century ago, the Parriott family made a bold investment in worship and the arts with the purchase of a pipe organ for the newly completed cathedral—an instrument that has grown into one of the largest pipe organs in Oklahoma and one of the twenty-five largest in the world, with over 100 ranks and more than 7,000 pipes. For generations, its majestic sound has filled our sanctuary, leading worship, marking sacred moments, and lifting hearts heavenward. Yet this grand instrument requires constant care—its console, pipes, bellows, wind reservoirs, blower, and countless intricate parts need ongoing repair and expert maintenance. Tending to this remarkable organ is more than routine upkeep; it is an act of faithful stewardship that preserves our rich musical heritage so future generations can continue to experience its inspiring sound for decades to come.

TOTAL FOR ALL CAPITAL VISION PROJECTS.....\$5,500,000

STRETCH GOAL (INCLUDES LAWN AT CATHEDRAL SQUARE)\$6,000,000



Campaign Timeline



SEPTEMBER 2024

FMC 2030 Vision Group Begins Meeting



MARCH

First Impression Gatherings Held



EARLY NOVEMBER

Stewardship Series Begins
Campaign Prayer Event



LATE NOVEMBER

Commitment Sunday
Launch Three-Year Giving Period

JUNE

Town Hall Gathering
Churchwide Survey
Feasibility Study

SEPTEMBER

Lead Gift Gatherings
One-on-One Meetings

JULY

Advanced Projects (HVAC,
Elevators) Begin

OCTOBER

Advanced Commitment
Gathering
Public Launch

Commitment Profile

# of Gifts at Level	Gift Level	Total at Level	Cumulative Total
1	750,000	750,000	750,000
1	500,000	500,000	1,250,000
2	300,000	600,000	1,850,000
3	200,000	600,000	2,450,000
5	100,000	500,000	2,950,000

12 Potential Commitments = \$2,950,000 or 53.6% of Goal

# of Gifts at Level	Gift Level	Total at Level	Cumulative Total
5	75,000	375,000	3,325,000
7	50,000	350,000	3,675,000
10	30,000	300,000	3,975,000
12	25,000	300,000	4,275,000
15	18,000	270,000	4,545,000

49 Potential Commitments = \$1,595,000 or 29.0% of Goal

61 Potential Commitments = \$4,545,000 or 82.6% of Goal

# of Gifts at Level	Gift Level / Monthly	Total at Level	Cumulative Total
18	14,400 / 400	259,200	4,804,200
24	10,800 / 300	259,200	5,063,400
30	7,200 / 200	216,000	5,279,400
32	3,600 / 100	115,200	5,394,600
35	1,800 / 50	63,000	5,457,600
Many	Under 1,800	42,000	5,499,600

139 Remaining Potential Commitments = \$995,000 or 17.4% of Goal

200+ Total Potential Commitments = \$5,500,000 or 100% of Goal

Creative Strategies for Giving

There is a place in this vision for every person who calls First Methodist home. Every single gift, no matter the size, helps bring this vision to life. No one will be pressured or told what they should give; instead, each of us is invited to pray and listen for how God is calling us to respond. We won't all give the same amount, but we are all equally called to a spirit of prayerful, sacrificial generosity—trusting that, together, our faithfulness will make a lasting impact for God's kingdom.

A few things to consider as you pray about how to give:

Remember That Small Gifts Add Up

By giving smaller amounts at higher frequencies—weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly—large gifts can be reached in smaller steps. Setting up automated giving can make small gifts part of your routine.

Revisit Your Budget

Intentional lifestyle adjustments can free up resources to give and may help achieve other goals. Examples include canceling streaming subscriptions, limiting meals or coffee out, and generally assessing wants and needs.

More substantial gifts may come from bigger family sacrifices, such as:

- Postponing major expenditures such as cars, home projects, or trips.
- Carving out a portion of commission income, bonuses, or raises.
- Redirecting other income from interest, dividends, or rental properties.

Include Kids and Students

Adults are not the only ones who are interested in or will benefit from this vision. This is a great opportunity to teach our kids about honoring the Lord through a habit of sacrificial generosity. We encourage you to talk and pray as a family about engaging in this campaign. We would love for our kids and students to know they have a meaningful part to play in fulfilling our mission together.

Make Giving a Habit

For those who have never made giving to the Lord through the church a habit, use this opportunity to get started! The idea of tithing may feel like an unattainable goal, so start small. Commit to giving a smaller percentage of your income and increase it gradually on an annual basis. This will help ease you into the habit. As the church is taking on this big financial commitment, we will need the renewed strength that comes from first-time givers securing our normal operating income.

Consider Gifts Other Than Cash

Gifts other than cash include stocks, bonds, annuities, property, and other assets. Giving the asset directly to the church eliminates potential capital gains taxes and results in a larger gift to the church.

Special Tax-Free IRA Gifts

For those aged 70 1/2 and older, it is possible to make tax-favorable charitable gifts from certain types of IRA accounts. A total of up to \$108,000 per year can be transferred directly from IRAs to qualified charities, such as our church, free from federal income tax. There also may be some state income tax savings. For those 72 and older or those who have begun taking their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), donations given in this way count toward their RMD for the year of the gift.

To take advantage of this benefit; it is important to make the donation directly from the IRA to the church. For those with check writing privileges on their accounts, this may be the most efficient way to make qualified charitable distributions from IRAs. Contact the church office or your tax advisor for more information.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the order of priority for the projects?

Projects related to heating and cooling are already underway, as are upgrades to campus security and safety, and work on the elevators. Subsequent projects will be prioritized by the Administrative Board as funds become available.

If we do not reach our campaign goal, will we take on long-term debt to complete all of the projects?

We do not plan to take on long-term debt. If we do not meet our fundraising goals for the campaign, then we will prioritize our project list to only include projects for which we have received pledges.

What happens if we raise more than our goal?

If we receive gifts in excess of our goal, then our Administrative Board will pray and discern how to use those funds in the most faithful way possible to continue to address our capital needs.

When will the work begin?

We have already begun work on the most urgent needs in our facility. Other projects will commence as plans are finalized and funding becomes available.

How do we envision the new Lawn at Cathedral Square being utilized?

The new Lawn at Cathedral Square provides our congregation with a unique opportunity to build community within our church family and to reach out to the growing number of downtown residents in a public and visible way. We envision the Lawn being used for worship services, outdoor baptisms,



concerts, family events, and fellowship opportunities. The Lawn is the only space of its kind in the south end of downtown Tulsa, and positions our congregation to connect with our closest neighbors.

How will a capital campaign impact giving to the annual operating budget?

A capital campaign is intended to be giving above and beyond our tithes and offerings to the operating budget. We don't believe that giving to the campaign will have a negative impact on our budget, but we also don't expect big increases to our budget over the next three years. In the long run, we believe our operating budget will see increases as people experience the blessing of increased generosity in their lives.

These are exciting opportunities for the future. What are we doing to strengthen our existing ministries now?

We are continually working to strengthen our adult discipleship opportunities, kids' ministry, and youth ministry. We are creating new groups for adults to pursue holiness and accountability. We are finding creative ways to reach young adults and incorporate them into the FMC family. Our Kids' Ministry and Early Learning Academy are working closely together to reach young families and leverage our impact for the Kingdom. We have hired a new Director of Youth Ministry to bring fresh vision and excitement to our youth and their families. Our ongoing discipleship ministries are of utmost importance to our ministry staff.

What is the overall timeline for the campaign?

We began working with Horizons Stewardship in February of 2025. Our "first impressions gatherings" took place in March and April to begin gauging congregational interest in the initiatives you can see in the Vision Case Statement. After this summer's Town Hall meeting, we will begin sharing information with the congregation about pledging. The public phase of the campaign will launch in October with a sermon series preached by Pastor Andrew. Our Vision 2030 commitment Sunday will be on November 23.

What is the cost of doing nothing?

The cost of doing nothing is two-fold. In the area of ministry initiatives, doing nothing would mean not being equipped to do evangelism and discipleship formation in fresh, new ways.

In the area of capital improvements, doing nothing would worsen the problem of deferred maintenance on our physical facilities. If we believe God is calling us to engage in real Kingdom work, then the time to step forward into the new country is right now!



How Will You Respond?

We stand together at the edge of a new country—a place God is calling us to go as the people of First Methodist. The Vision 2030 Campaign is our next faithful step on this journey: a three-year commitment to restore our facilities, release our evangelistic potential, and renew our discipleship for generations to come.

Like the Israelites gathering resources for the tabernacle as they stepped into an unknown land, we are invited to bring our gifts—trusting that God will multiply every act of generosity. Not everyone will give the same amount, but everyone is called to pray, listen, and respond with sacrificial faith. This new country cannot be entered alone; it will take all of us, walking forward together, to build a future where lives are transformed and Christ's name is lifted high in Tulsa and beyond.

Three Requests of You:

- Will you prayerfully seek the Lord and ask what amount your family could sacrificially give toward this project (beyond your regular giving) over three years (2026, 2027, 2028)?
- Will you plan to make your three-year pledge on or before commitment Sunday on November 23?
- Will you consider front-loading your pledge as best as you are able?

As you seek the Lord about this decision, you may desire further conversation with our pastors or other leaders. More conversation is always welcomed!

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

2 Corinthians 9:7





FIRST
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TULSA

tulsafmc.org
918.592.3862