

opening hearts & minds

charleswood united church

April 6, 2009

Dear Friends,

In February you received a letter from me announcing **Opening Hearts and Minds**, a follow-up capital campaign for the expansion of Charleswood United Church. The goal of **Opening Hearts and Minds** is to secure commitments in excess of \$600,000 over the next three years. This is the amount required to bring the debt incurred in expanding and renovating the church to a sustainable level and allow us to optimise the programs our facilities now allow.

Throughout March numerous home meetings and open houses have allowed people to hear in greater detail the results of our construction and to express their vision for the church. Thank you to those who hosted and attended one or more of these events.

We also used three worship services in March to explore a spirituality of Opening Hearts and Minds and what this campaign means in terms of ministry. On April 5 a Celebration Dinner was held at the church where 300 people received even more information to form a foundation for making a commitment to the church over the next three years.

In a church the size of Charleswood United it is never possible to have everyone in the same room at the same time whether for an open house, a worship service, or a dinner. But with this letter it is possible to share with everyone the intentions of the church as you are contacted this April about your commitment to see us through to the completion of our expansion.

During the presentation on April 5 information was shared that everyone needs to be aware of prior to making their pledges for the campaign. This concerns how the money will be distributed. As stated above our goal is to exceed \$600,000 over three years. The disbursement will be as follows:

50% - Debt reduced on existing mortgages and ongoing maintenance

35% - Replenishing the Heritage Fund capital used to pay off the construction

10% - Equipping the facility for broad use i.e. stage, screen, projection, etc.

5% - People and programs such as youth, refugee work, inner city ministry

At the end of three years all remaining debt payments will be integrated into our ongoing operating budget. There will be no more appeals above and beyond our regular contributions.

I wish to remind you of a few things that applied to our first campaign which continue to hold true.

- This is a gift over and above your ongoing support for operations
- This is non-contractual but offered in faith, if your circumstances change you are not bound to your commitment morally or legally
- Your pledge will be managed with complete confidentiality
- We ask you to look at a three year commitment

The commitment of every one of us is essential to the success of the campaign. I am pleased to announce that preliminary commitments totalling \$265,000 or 45% of our goal have already been received.

Your pledge form will be hand delivered or arriving in the mail in the next little while. Please consider carefully and prayerfully and **return it to the church by April 26.**

As I said in church on March 1, if we open the doors then God will open new hearts and minds. With my team-mate Joanne Kury I wish you all the blessings of new life that is the promise of Easter.

Grace and peace,

Michael

Rev. Dr. Michael Wilson

On behalf of the **Opening Hearts and Minds** Steering Committee