

## DREAM 2018

Floris United Methodist Church has a vibrant history dating back 126 years. As we continue today to live out our mission, to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, we are the recipients of a wonderful history created by people who could never have imagined how they would bless all who now call Floris their church home. Many of our leaders have been asking, what's next for Floris? The Church Council has been working to answer this question.

In 2014, we launched the successful \$4,200,000 Imagine Capital Campaign with the purpose of reducing the \$9,440,000 debt, reaching young adults, launching the Reston campus and breaking the cycle of poverty through investments in the Hutchinson Elementary School Partnership and the Sierra Leone Women and Infant Health Initiative.

The Church Council believes that now is the time to take bold steps to reach new people in our community with a message of hope and love. After months of study, focus groups, listening sessions and surveys, we considered your input on the following initiatives to launch the Dream 2018 capital campaign. We want to further help you become the person you want to be, through reaching out to the community and growing God's kingdom.

# dream

what God will do through us



## DEBT REDUCTION: \$3,000,000

Floris UMC has successfully built a campus that is valued at \$31,250,000. Since the time of construction, we have worked to secure the financial future of the church as we reduce and pay off our debt. In 2017, we successfully refinanced our building long-term debt with a 10-year fixed rate loan. This enabled us to reduce the amount of interest we would be paying over the remaining life of our previous loan, while securing a lower interest rate that is now fixed rather than variable. The congregation has also conducted a series of capital campaigns which have reduced our debt by more than 50% from \$13,800,000 to less than \$6,500,000 today.

We currently enjoy an opportunity to pay down our debt at a historically low interest rate of 3.19% that is fixed for ten years. The Dream Campaign will also invite newer members to contribute to this goal. By reducing our debt today, we limit our financial risk if the economy passes through turbulent waters in the years ahead.

## STUDENT AND FAMILY MINISTRY DISCOVERY FUNDS: \$200,000

The framework of student ministry has not changed for several generations. The program works with students to educate them in the Bible and Christian faith, introduce them to a caring community and give them opportunities to serve others. These are worthy goals for middle and high school students, but they don't address another essential longing in our area: the health of families. Many of us would like to know how to have a better experience of being a Christian family. We want to have a loving community right in our homes. These funds will be utilized to renovate our student ministry to better equip our kids and the families in which they live. We want to work with consultants and best practice churches to implement a fresh and effective ministry model that reaches closer to home. While this initiative will include the renovation of the Hangar to create a more modern student space, it is the ministry itself that we hope to renew in the months ahead.





## LAUNCH RESTORATION LOUDOUN: \$550,000

Our Reston campus engages more than 300 people. It is one of the great ministry successes over the past four years. Restoration welcomes un-churched and de-churched people who go there to experience Christ and find a church home. Restoration has also made a significant impact on the Reston community, including Forest Edge Elementary School and the Embry Rucker Shelter.

Floris has an opportunity to partner with the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church to plant a third Floris campus in Loudoun County, a fast-growing community where many Floris members currently live. The new campus which will be located along the Rt. 50 corridor would be called Restoration Loudoun. Over the past year, church leaders from Floris UMC, Pleasant Valley

UMC, and Arcola UMC have been meeting to explore the possibility of church expansion in Loudoun County. The Rt. 50 corridor area is expected to continue growing at a rapid pace, and all agree that there is more opportunity than any one congregation can meet. This is a Luke 10:2 moment, where Jesus observed "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." Jesus then told his disciples to "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send workers into the harvest field."

With the success of our Reston campus and because our church is one of the Virginia Conference's most vital congregations, we anticipate their full financial support in a matching grant that would expand our model of "One Church with Many Locations." This strategy is recognized as one of the very best ways to reach those who do not currently attend church as well as those who are not yet Christians. This initiative would also allow for school partnerships to develop in Loudoun County, enabling Floris UMC to further strengthen partnerships with area schools, such as exist at Forest Edge Elementary School and Hutchison Elementary School.

## LAUNCH A MINISTRY TO PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: \$100,000

Floris UMC is a church for all people. We constantly look to further God's kingdom and we believe one way to do so is to offer a spiritual and learning environment for all to access, regardless of ability. When the building was designed, special attention was paid to ensure that the physical structure would not prevent anyone with special needs from accessing the entire space. Now we want to go even further to create a place where non-physical barriers are also removed and where all people will feel comfortable participating and growing in their faith. We will hire a part-time Special Needs Coordinator who will be responsible for training all staff and volunteers to work with people who have special needs, across all ministries. This individual will be responsible for community outreach, training volunteers across all ministries and ongoing staff training.



## RENOVATED CHILDREN'S AREA AND NURSERY RELOCATION: \$250,000

A consistent theme among churches with thriving children's programming is that the space in which the ministry is done is both visually and intellectually stimulating and that the nursery is located near the worship center.

Our current space has become dated and our nursery requires new parents to walk through what seems like endless corridors to reach the nursery. Even though the distance is not that great, the perception is that the nursery is much farther away from the sanctuary than one would expect.

Originally, the proposal was to relocate the existing nursery and children's spaces to the top floor, where the main church office is currently located. When this idea was tested by a sample of the congregation, the overwhelming response was that the price of this move was so significant that other opportunities should be investigated. The revised proposal includes the renovation of the classroom area and the nursery

to make these areas more up-to-date and modern. This could also include moving the nursery closer to the existing children's area to make it more convenient for parents. This project will allow for themed renovations by one of the many professional companies whose sole focus is designing attractational children's space in churches.