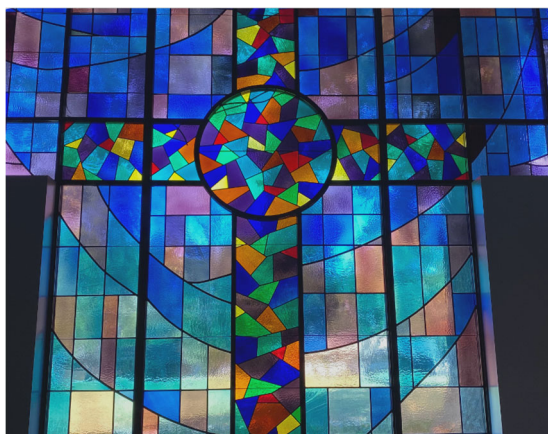




Concord United is coming up on 158 years of transformational ministry in our community and beyond. Birthed in shadows of the Civil War, our church has a rich history of looking past situational limitations to find persons with a need that we can address with the love of Jesus Christ. The spiritual DNA of our pioneering ancestors has extended throughout this past century-and-a half to inspire the mission and ministry of Concord United, today.



As we look around our community, demographic information points toward an exciting opportunity. The two largest life groups within a five-mile radius of our campus are families with young children and persons nearing or just beginning retirement. Concord United is committed to being an intergenerational church where persons of all ages are encouraged to engage in our mission and ministry. While all persons are equally welcome among us, we should be particularly alert to providing appropriate facilities for the two largest constituencies around us.

Every church wants to be filled with the laughter and energy children create. However, not every church can make the commitment necessary to provide the ministries and facilities necessary to extend a warm welcome to families with children. Concord expressed its firm commitment to children years ago with the addition of The Concord Weekday Preschool as an extension of Children's Ministries. These ministries have grown over the years to the point that our facilities are no longer adequate to serve the families in our church and community. While Children's Director Victoria Shackelford and her staff and volunteers offer engaging

programming with hearts-full of love for the kids, their space is in the oldest part of our building and is the at the other end of our campus from the Worship Center where many of the parents worship. The existing space and location for Children’s Ministries and the Preschool do not position well us for the growth potential for the future.

The other prominent life group within our immediate sphere of influence is made up of persons nearing or already in retirement. One of the common denominators of the Baby Boom generation is a desire to express their faith in community. Many in this life group are finding our church and becoming active in worship and mission. One of the other common denominators of this group, particularly as it ages, is the pervasive encroachment of Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia. Over a decade ago, a group of Concord United staff and members with hearts for these persons and their families cast the vision that has become Concord Day Enrichment Services, or CADES. Every day persons dealing with issues related to Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia come to our church for a program of engagement, fellowship, exercise, support, and their own specially designed worship experience. They benefit from a structured program facilitated by compassionate professionals and volunteers that allows them to find purpose and identity. Caregivers receive education and support providing the freedom to work, take care of other family members, and practice necessary self-care.



The Need

Our Children’s Ministry and the Preschool are experiencing increasing numbers of children active in our programs. Our Preschool currently has a long waiting list for registration. There are two factors that can negatively impact our ability to share Christ’s love with children and their families moving forward: 1) Space limitations will blunt our ability to welcome families with children who are looking for a place for their kids to learn about God’s love in Christ. 2) The location of the current space for children does not offer a warm welcome due to aging infrastructure and lack of proximity to the worship areas.

Our CADES program is at maximum capacity as well. While we have repurposed two classrooms to allow for the addition of for more participants. However, the waiting list is long. Demographic forecasts indicate that the need for programs and communities to welcome and

support persons with dementia and their families will continue grow dramatically as Baby Boomers age.

The Vision

When we built the East Wing in 2010, which included the Worship Center and Student Ministries area, it was the first of a two-phase vision approved by church members in 2003. Due to the cost of building both phases at the same time, the Phase-Two facility for Children's Ministry and the Preschool was deferred until a later time. We believe that the time is now for the full vision to come into focus. To address the above realities and complete the vision, we propose construction of a new facility for our Children's Ministry and the Weekday Preschool. The footprint for this new building fits on our existing property and would be positioned at the southwest corner of the Worship Center between the East Wing and the parking lot. No additional property acquisition would be required.

At the time that our Children's Ministry and Preschool programs move to their new building, renovation would begin on the existing space for those ministries to make room for the CADES expansion. This expansion would allow CADES to significantly increase the number of participants served.

Lee Ingram, of Brewer, Ingram, and Fuller, the architectural firm that designed our current East Wing expansion, has provided cost estimates:

- New Building for Children's Ministries and the Weekday Preschool would be two stories, 22,000 total square feet: \$8 million.
- Renovation of the existing children's space for CADES would be roughly \$750,000.

Path Forward

A Study Team was formed by the Trustees Team in October of 2019 to evaluate need and secure rough cost estimates. The team's meeting on February 2, 2020 resulted in a unanimous and enthusiastic vote to recommend moving forward with the process as described in the UMC Book of Discipline. Covid19 interrupted our process until the end of 2022 when it was time to move forward again with the Vision for our next phase of Concord UMC.

In 2022 as we evaluated the cost of building materials, labor, and construction the cost of the overall project moved to approximately \$9 million. Our Consultant Rhodes Logan from Horizons Stewardship presented a Feasibility Study in late February demonstrating the potential for funding the new Children's building and CADES renovations through two Capital Campaigns designed to maximize gifts to the overall project and minimize our debt in the long-term.

This Feasibility Study suggested the following timeline:

- 2023 Capital Campaign with a goal of \$3 million
- 2024 Begin construction and renovations
- 2025 Hold second Capital Campaign for \$3 million
- Concord carries approximately \$3 million in debt

Our church leadership unanimously and enthusiastically endorsed a plan to move forward with the first of two \$3 million Capital Campaigns for the overall project.

We are asking families like yours to consider serving as a leader in this project by becoming a **Pacesetter** for this Capital Campaign. Pacesetters will provide commitments to this Capital Campaign early in the process and demonstrate to every family in our church family the importance of moving forward with this overall project.

Timetable

March through mid-May 2023- Pacesetters would demonstrate the viability of a \$3 million Capital Campaign by making sacrificial commitments at the beginning of the process.

May 21st – Congregational Gathering after church to share plans and progress.

June 18th – The church will hold a vote on the Capital Campaign based on commitments from the Pacesetters. Your gift commitment, along with other Pacesetter families would demonstrate to the entire church that our Vision can become a reality.

June through October 2023- Every family in Concord UMC would be asked to make a sacrificial gift to the Capital Campaign.

November/December 2023- Celebrate the success of this first Capital Campaign for the new Children’s building and CADES renovation.

