



September 19, 2017

Dear Members and Friends of Urban Grace Church:

Greetings! I hope you are all doing well. As I write this, I find myself feeling grateful for each of you and for our church community. I also find myself filled with hope and excitement for our future together as we begin our *Building Together* capital campaign. The purpose of this campaign is to create space in the life of our church to reflect on our history, our present, and our future together, and invest in a variety of projects in our building that will increase our capacity for ministry for many years to come.

The last time there was a large-scale capital campaign to invest in our building was in the early 80s, so this will be new for many of us. As such, I thought it might be helpful to share what our campaign will look like. The *Building Together* capital campaign will be a three-month process that will culminate with our financial pledges – special gifts above and beyond our regular offerings – that will be used to address deferred maintenance and long needed upgrades for our building. Sunday morning worship will carry on as usual, and we will celebrate the Season of Creation, All Saints Day, and Advent like we do every year. For the months of this Fall, we will also fold in regular campaign updates, some stories from members of our community, and welcome our campaign consultant, Marc Rieke, to preach one Sunday.

Of course, many campaign activities will occur outside of Sunday worship. The *Building Together* leadership team is creating a variety of opportunities for us to learn about the campaign, and to reflect on what it might mean for each of us. I encourage you to participate in the following events:

- Small group **Home Gatherings** that will take place during the month of October and early November and primarily hosted in the home of Urban Grace folks (see below for specifics). These gatherings are really important to attend as they will not only be a lot fun, but also present nuts and bolts info about the campaign and give you an opportunity to dialogue and ask questions. You only need to attend one of these and know that they are not fundraising meetings (no one will be asked to give here). Rather, they are an opportunity to learn.
- On Saturday, November 11th we will begin a **24-Hour Prayer Vigil** at Urban Grace. This dedicated time of prayer will give you opportunity to pray for those in our congregation and the ministry of our church. There will be traditional forms of prayer, as well as creative forms of prayer that engage our mind, body, and divine imagination.
- On Saturday, December 2nd we will have an **All-Church Banquet** that will be a night of fun and celebration. There will be food, entertainment, a program for the kids, and reflection on our life and ministry together. This will be followed by Commitment Sunday on December 3rd.

URBAN GRACE CHURCH
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There will be a lot happening at Urban Grace this Fall, so you will be receiving regular campaign newsletters to help keep everything straight and give more details. We have a wonderful campaign team, but with all that is happening they will need your help. Your participation at these events will be crucial, as will your help planning and organizing all that goes into a well-run campaign.

In many ways this project is an investment in our future, but as your pastor, I see great opportunity for our present. Urban Grace inherited First Baptist Church's commitment to live by faith and give herself as a gift to downtown Tacoma. We each have a role in how Christ's liberating love is made known in our city and in our lives.

The *Building Together* capital campaign will ask each of us to reflect on our role and our future together. Urban Grace has seen very encouraging growth in the last year, and the volunteer opportunities and campaign events will provide occasion to deepen relationships with those we may not yet know. Friends, the ground is fertile for spiritual growth, so I hope you will walk with us as we journey together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Pastor Ben

***Building Together* Home Gatherings**

Tuesday, October 10, 2017	7:30pm	Home of Teri & John Woo
Friday, October 13, 2017	6:30pm	Home of Tracie & Matt Bonjour
Saturday, October 14, 2017	Time TBD	Home of Bruce & Betsy Erickson
Sunday, October 15, 2017	12pm	At Urban Grace
Monday, October 16, 2017	7:30pm	Home of Jack & Sue Comfort
Saturday, October 21, 2017	10am	Home of Adam & Courtney Ydstie
Tuesday, October 24, 2017	7pm	Home of Brad & Elisa Waidelich
Thursday, October 26, 2017	6:30pm	Home of Mark & Maggie Dahl
Sunday, October 29, 2017	3:30pm	Home of Amanda & Walker Sherman
Wednesday, November 1, 2017	6:00pm	Home of Abbie & Cyrus Brown

