

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **What is the vision for Cornerstone Church?**

The vision of Cornerstone Church is to see people saved and to help them develop a relationship with Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit to walk in the fullness of God, and the freedom of his Son, Jesus Christ.

## **The vision campaign is called AWAKEN. What does that mean?**

We chose AWAKEN as our theme because it so beautifully captures everything we want and need as a church right now. We want to continue reaching the people around us who need to be awakened to a new life in Christ. With the apostle Paul, our prayer for each person is this: *That the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which [God] has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe* (Ephesians 1:18 – 19a NLT). This is also our prayer for those of us who already have a relationship with Christ. Our facilities don't need to be awakened—we do.

Our desire is that God would AWAKEN us in every way. We're asking for more of God's presence in our services, a stronger spiritual atmosphere in our church, and a greater passion to reach people who don't know Christ. We're asking God to change us and use us to love the people he sends our way. We believe God has plans to transform our community, and we want to be part of that—to be fully awakened to what God wants to do. Yes, we're asking God to fill the campus and to help us build up our facilities, but our purpose is all about people. What we're really asking God to do is to use us to advance the kingdom—to save people, set them free, and help them discover the life God wants them to have. AWAKEN is an opportunity for us as a church to practice being fully surrendered people God can use for his purposes.

## **Why do we need a vision campaign to raise additional funds?**

Cornerstone Church is growing tremendously! Just a few years ago, Cornerstone was an English-language church with one weekly service, four staff members, and average attendance of 200. Today, we have English- and Spanish-speaking congregations, five weekly services, eight staff members, and average attendance of over 500. But that's not all. Every week there are dozens of weekly classes for children and students, over twenty small group gatherings, and multiple ministry activities that serve people within and beyond our congregation. And we're still growing.

Every week, God brings more and more people through our doors. Our facilities are no longer adequate to the level of ministry we feel God is calling us to. In order to fulfill God's purpose for our church—by growing and reaching people—we need to make strategic renovations to our facilities, allow for growth in staffing, and expand our ministries.

## **What are the renovations that need to be made to our facilities?**

Our dream is to have a welcoming and friendly entrance, an accessible place for visitors, additional space for our Spanish-speaking congregation, more room for our ministries to children and students, gathering spots for relationships to build over coffee, a central meeting place for volunteers, and more. The good news is, we don't need to build a whole new building. We just need to make strategic renovations that will enable us to be more efficient with the space we already have.

## **Why is it important to do these things right now?**

We have what might be called a “good problem.” The *good* part is that we've more than doubled the size of our congregation in recent years—and our ministries have expanded in order to meet the corresponding increase in needs that growth represents. The *problem* part is that our existing facilities and programs are at or beyond capacity. In our children's ministry, we've grown from thirty kids attending one service, to over 150 kids at multiple services. If we aren't able to provide additional space and resources to our children's ministry staff and volunteers, we could end up having to turn kids away. No one wants to do that, but it's just one of the decisions we might have to face. If we don't respond strategically to how we're growing, we'll stop growing. And that's just not an option!



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## **When would the renovations take place?**

Renovations will be timed according to available funding and will take place within the three-year campaign.

## **What do you hope will be different about Cornerstone Church once the three-year AWAKEN campaign is complete?**

We hope to experience growth and change physically (in our facilities), spiritually, relationally, and financially.

- **Physically** - Our hope is that every part of our campus—from the parking lot to the sanctuary—demonstrates that we understand and care about the needs of the people we serve.
- **Spiritually** - We don't want people to simply give money to a campaign; we hope that lives are forever changed. We want the spiritual intensity of our church to grow dramatically—through worship, service, outreach, and fully surrendered hearts. We want the focus of everything we do to be in line with God's plan for our church and community.
- **Relationally** - We want God to increase our love for one another so that all of our relationships are based on integrity and commitment. We want everyone to see relationships within the church—especially in small groups—not as something that we have to do, but something we want to do because God is in it.
- **Financially** - This campaign is a chance for all of us to become better stewards of the resources God has blessed us with. For some, that may mean gaining new skills or confidence in managing money. For others, it could involve a commitment to pay down debt, limit spending, or developing a practice of consistent or sacrificial giving.

## **What happens if we don't raise all of the money we need?**

God has blessed us with tremendous growth and entrusted us with stewarding his gifts. Our primary responsibility is obedience; God is responsible for everything else. We believe that if we all participate, over the course of three years we can raise enough money to complete the things we believe God has asked us to do. However, AWAKEN isn't limited to simply raising money. It's about coming together and making a commitment to the vision God has entrusted to us. We are trusting that if we do that, God is faithful and will provide for our needs (Philippians 4:19).

## **Pastor Jody, aside from your role as our pastor, why does AWAKEN matter to you personally?**

Two words: our kids. I believe we may be part of a "Moses Generation." God used Moses to deliver his people from bondage in Egypt, but it was not Moses' generation that entered the Promised Land. I think something like that may be true for us as well. God may be asking us to make investments now that will only be fully realized in the next generation. I'm not interested in doing this to build a big church. I'm doing this because I don't want our kids to grow up in a world that doesn't know God. I want Cornerstone to leave behind a spiritual legacy of radically changed lives. It's not enough to just have a nice church, I want to change our culture—for them. That's the bottom line. Years from now, I want our kids to look back and say, I'm so glad the people before us invested in us and our community because it changed the whole culture. How can we not do whatever we possibly can for God in order to prepare a better life for the next generation?

## **What are you asking me to do?**

Pray, seek guidance, and commit.

**Pray** - Pray for our church, asking God to unite us and transform us for his purpose. Ask God to give clear guidance to Pastor Jody and the leadership team as they seek to steward the AWAKEN vision and follow God's leading. Join us personally by consistently praying the AWAKEN prayer:

*Awaken me, Lord. I will no longer wait for someone else to rise up—I will rise up. Awaken me to your purpose, not my purpose. Show me my part in fulfilling your purpose for my life, my church, and my community. I will love the people you love. I will make the sacrifices you ask me to make. I will follow where you lead. Amen.*

**Seek guidance** - Prayerfully seek God's guidance as you consider your participation in AWAKEN. This might include reviewing your financial situation, meeting with a financial advisor, setting aside time for family conversations and prayer, or creatively identifying additional ways you might contribute.

**Commit** - Formalize your commitment to AWAKEN by submitting your three-year financial pledge. You might also invite accountability by writing down other commitments—for example, to pray, volunteer, engage in fundraising activities, etc.—and sharing them with another person or your small group.

## **Why is it important for me to participate in AWAKEN?**

Three years from now, imagine what it would be like to look back and say, Wow, God did some amazing things at Cornerstone, but I wasn't part of it. No matter what the size of your financial contribution, we want everyone to have ownership in achieving the AWAKEN vision. No regrets!