



Campaign Case Statement

An intentional initiative to raise funds for the expansion of our church facilities - for the growth of God's Kingdom

Sycamore
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OUR DENOMINATION

As a member congregation of the [Presbyterian Church in America \(PCA\)](#), Sycamore Presbyterian Church is a reformed and evangelical church, affirming the five *solas* of the Reformation: *Sola Scriptura*, *Solus Christus*, *Sola Fide*, *Sola Gratia*, and *Soli Deo Gloria*.

We ascribe to the truths outlined in the [Westminster Confession of Faith](#).

OUR CHURCH VISION

Joyfully united to Jesus, Midlothian, and each other.

OUR FOUNDATIONAL VALUES

LIVE: *Receiving the Gospel*

GROW: *Treasuring the Gospel*

THRIVE: *Walking in the Gospel*

GO: *Giving the Gospel*

CAMPAIGN VISION

Walking in faith to meet Midlothian where it is and where it will be. We seek to see God's Kingdom THRIVE in our hearts and community.

OUR CORE PRIORITIES

THRIVE: We want to be a church marked by:

Teaching: Learning to follow Jesus (Matthew 28:20)

Hospitality: Welcoming as Christ welcomed us (Romans 15:7)

Rest: Resting in Christ's finished work (Matthew 11:28-29)

Invitation: Inviting others to come to Jesus (John 7:37)

Volunteering: Volunteering our gifts to serve one another (1 Peter 4:10)

Enjoyment: Enjoying the fullness of life in Christ (Psalm 16:11)

A BRIEF HISTORY

WHERE HAVE WE COME IN 44 YEARS?

In the summer of 1980, church planter Al Baker began meeting with a small group of people who had a vision of launching a new church in the Midlothian area. First meeting in Gordon Elementary School, the start-up slowly began to grow, as Harry Long was called to be the organizing pastor in 1982. In 1983, seven acres of land was purchased - what is now Sycamore's church campus - at the end of Coalfield Road, just down the street from Sycamore Square in the heart of Midlothian. Shortly after, the church was particularized formally in 1984.

Over the next five years, the church body grew steadily as leadership planned for the future, and 1989 marked the first major step in the facilities of the church being developed, with consistent provision from the Lord:

- 1989: The sanctuary and 12 classrooms and offices were constructed
- 1995: Building Expansion 1 was completed, adding 9 classrooms and offices
- 2003: Building Expansion 2 was completed, adding 6 classrooms and offices

For many years, led by Harry Long, Sycamore faithfully served its congregation and community, and the Lord blessed the church with a growing ministry and membership. In 2020, Pastor Long retired after nearly 40 years of leading the church, and Sean Sawyers, from Boston North Presbyterian Church, was called to be the next lead pastor of Sycamore Presbyterian.

Over the past 5 years, Sycamore has experienced consistent ministry growth, a testament to the Lord's blessings and the dedication of our team. Amidst this growth, several additional staff members have been added in the areas of youth ministry, operations, and administration.

Today, Sycamore enjoys a vibrant congregation of around 375 across two services on Sundays, and is poised for a growing impact on its community.

KINGDOM IMPACT

WHAT HAS GOD DONE THROUGH SYCAMORE?

God's blessing of ministry efforts over nearly 45 years has yielded a humbling array of Gospel-focused impact on our congregation, community, and the world.

- Growing God's Family
 - Today, there are approximately 375 members representing 190 family units.
 - More than 60 new members have been added since 2022.
- Pursuing Diligent Ministry
 - Adult Ministry: We invest in Adult ministry through adult education (classes at capacity), active Community Groups (132 families active), 11 Bible Studies, and men's and women's ministries.
 - Children's Ministry: We invest in Children's ministry through intentional programming for all ages, including lively Sunday morning classes and care, and other events throughout the week and the summer months.
 - New Ministries: We have launched many new ministries, including:
 - Aprons & Mitts (baked goods for visitors, shut ins, hospitalized)
 - Arts Ministry (inviting local artists to submit redemptive-themed pieces for display)
 - Care Team (assistance and meals for disabled, shut ins, etc.)
 - First Impressions Team (purposeful initial contact for all guests)
 - Library Team (refurbish and modernize our library facility)
 - Momco (serving mothers of all ages and stages of life)
- Investing in our Community
 - JB Watkins Elementary School: We have partnered with the school across the street to host teacher training, provide meals and service to teachers and staff throughout the year, and more.
 - Sycamore Community Park: We have actively participated in the renovation and development of Sycamore Community Park, which serves as a regular and active gathering place and mission field for the church community.
 - Sharing Our Facilities: Our facilities are used actively throughout the week, including school gatherings, community Bible studies, ESL ministries, disability ministries, counseling offices, hispanic youth gatherings, and more.

CHALLENGES TO GROWTH

WHAT ARE THE HINDRANCES IN OUR FUTURE?

Midlothian is a rapidly growing area, and Sycamore is poised to serve this community amid that growth. Unfortunately, our current facilities increasingly limit our ability to welcome and serve our neighbors. On Sunday mornings, traffic bottlenecks restrict movement and inhibit hospitality, while significant portions of the building remain underused. We lack both adequate fellowship space to serve families well and sufficient classrooms to sustain our commitment to adult education. In measurable areas, our building constrains outreach rather than supporting it.

At the same time, we face approximately \$750,000 in deferred maintenance within the existing layout. Addressing those needs without rethinking how our space is used would preserve the inefficiencies currently working against our outreach goals. This project allows us to steward those necessary investments toward reconfiguring our facilities to remove barriers and support long-term ministry to our community.

Facilities Stretched Thin

Put simply, we must address the very real challenge of facility constraints, and the limits that it puts on our worship, fellowship, and ministries.

- Our Sunday School hour is at capacity, with no additional rooms or facilities available. Children's space is limited, and we are unable to meet the demand for additional adult education without using the sanctuary, which is a significant challenge for our music and audio/video teams.
- Infant and toddler nursery space is dated and dank, and falls well short of expected standards in the areas of usability and security.
- Church staff offices are scattered throughout the building, making collaboration and communication difficult and inefficient.
- We have no dedicated fellowship space, outside of emptying the chairs from the sanctuary.
- There are no dedicated conference and meeting areas for church staff, officers, and work teams.
- Due to its fractured nature, our facility lacks a clear pattern of organization, and also lacks unified plumbing, HVAC, and fire suppression systems.

As Sycamore considers growth in ministry, we have a tangible need to address these challenges. Our leadership has been compelled to ask the question:

Are our facilities neutral, helpful, or restrictive for the growth of our ministry?

Right now, they are *restrictive*, because they were designed for a different community in a different era of church-community engagement. There is a distinct need to remove the structural friction currently limiting our ability to expand our impact to our community.

Our Response

HOW DO WE PLAN TO ADDRESS THIS CHALLENGE?

In order to address these tangible challenges, the leadership of Sycamore is proposing a facilities project with three primary components:

1. Children's Suite

For many families, a church visit begins with the nursery. Our current children's area is dated and limited in both capacity and security, which quietly signals a lack of welcome, discouraging families from returning. In a family-oriented community, this first impression matters.

A sequestered, limited-access, larger Children's Suite allows Sycamore to offer a safer, more welcoming environment that reflects intentional care for children and peace of mind for parents. Improved access to west-side exits also enables thoughtful use of outdoor space near Sycamore Park. Together, these changes will strengthen outreach by reducing barriers for young families and signaling that children are valued participants in the life of the church.

2. Fellowship Hall & Adjacent Kitchen

As the community has grown, there are fewer natural gathering places where relationships can form outside of home and work. Churches are uniquely positioned to offer such spaces, yet Sycamore currently lacks a dedicated area for fellowship. The need to repeatedly clear and reset the sanctuary significantly limits shared meals, community gatherings, and outreach events.

Relocating the kitchen to a central location adjacent to a new Fellowship Hall not only allows increased seating capacity in the Sanctuary, but also supports internal connection and community outreach instead of hindering them. The proposed configuration makes it possible to host meals, mid-week gatherings, seminars, and small conferences that serve both the congregation and the wider community. Families and their guests can share a meal and then move naturally into children's and youth programs, adult education, or choir rehearsal within a space designed for participation and welcome.

3. Office & Shepherding Space

Creating space for the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen requires relocating the current main offices. Under the existing layout, staff offices are scattered throughout the building, often occupying classrooms needed for ministry. This arrangement limits teaching space and hinders staff coordination.

A dedicated Office Suite allows staff to work collaboratively and efficiently while freeing key areas of the building for direct ministry to our people and community. By relocating offices, the current office area can become central fellowship space, and

classrooms can be returned to their intended purpose. This change supports teaching, care, and outreach initiatives by ensuring that the building's most accessible spaces are oriented toward welcoming and serving others.

Expansion vs. Renovation

One key question: Why expand, rather than simply renovate?

Sycamore's goals for outreach and ministry simply cannot be achieved within the current structure. The existing footprint does not allow for the reconfiguration required to create fellowship space, relocate the kitchen and mothers' room, increase sanctuary capacity, and give our staff needed working space.

A modest expansion provides the flexibility needed to make these changes. Relocating the kitchen is essential both for creating functional fellowship space and for expanding the sanctuary. Moving the Mothers' Room as well results in an increase in Sanctuary seating capacity of more than 20 percent without the costly construction of an entirely new worship space. This approach reflects careful stewardship by addressing deferred maintenance while aligning the building more closely with our ministry and outreach goals.

This project seeks to steward what God has entrusted to us so that Sycamore may serve its community faithfully in a season of growth and change. By addressing long-standing limitations and re-ordering our facilities around hospitality, teaching, and worship, we aim to remove unnecessary barriers to welcome and participation. These changes are intended to support clear teaching of God's Word, warm hospitality for families and guests, reverent worship, and meaningful opportunities for connection and discipleship.

The project is not primarily about expanding a building, but about strengthening Sycamore's posture toward its neighbors. By creating inviting spaces, we seek to be a faithful and more visible presence in the community around us.

Project Cost

While diligent work is ongoing to finalize details plans and budgets, it is expected that the cost of this project will be as follows:

- New construction: \$2,700,000
- Deferred maintenance: \$500,000
- Furnishings and contingency: \$300,000

Total projected project cost: \$3,500,000

A Campaign Facilities "At a Glance" document, which provides a more detailed rundown of each improvement and its rationale and outcomes and a projected floorplan, can be accessed [HERE](#).

A PROACTIVE INITIATIVE

HOW ARE WE GOING TO ACCOMPLISH THIS?

In order to accomplish this initiative, Sycamore leadership proposes to conduct a proactive fundraising campaign – themed *Give. Grow. Go.* – to invite the church community to invest in this Kingdom work.

Considering the project cost range, the goal is to:

1. Secure as baseline of \$2.5 million or beyond, in 2–3 year pledged commitments; and
2. Finance an amount to be determined based on the results of the campaign (not to exceed \$1 million) in order to break ground as early as late 2026.

A DEDICATED CAMPAIGN PROCESS

WHAT ARE WE ASKING OF YOU?

Paul teaches us much about partnership. From his letter to the Philippians:

“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

Paul understood that there was no support without partnership. He understood that any support was not a *donation* to a cause, but rather an *investment* in a mission, with the anticipation of a Kingdom return on that investment.

With this biblical concept of partnership in mind, we ask you to join us in this exciting church initiative in the following ways:

1. **Pray** for the life and work of Sycamore Presbyterian Church. Pray for our leaders, members, and those in our community, that they would engage with us and turn to Christ for hope and salvation.
2. Consider a **sacrificial investment** in the *Give. Grow. Go.* campaign to help us achieve this goal, for the sake of the Gospel in our community and world.
3. As opportunities arise, help us **advocate** to others the importance of this mission and the capital campaign.

We deeply appreciate your prayerful consideration of how the Lord might be leading you to partner with us in this exciting step forward. To God alone belongs all glory!