



One generation commends your works to another;
they tell of your mighty acts. —Psalm 145:4

GEN² GEN

Generation to Generation

GENERATION TO GENERATION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN • CHURCH OF THE SERVANT CRC • GRAND RAPIDS, MI



We're an intergenerational and increasingly multicultural congregation with exciting ideas for ministry.

—Jack Roeda

Dear friends of Jesus Christ,

Church of the Servant started 40 years ago with a vibrant vision for ministry and fellowship. This vision has taken shape in wonderful and unexpected ways, and today we find ourselves blessed with an intergenerational and increasingly multicultural congregation with exciting ideas for ministry in the coming years.

As we seek to live out our mission of being and making disciples, we face a new challenge as a congregation, one that requires sacrificial giving. This challenge is the Generation to Generation capital campaign, which seeks to pay down our remaining construction debt and fund a new geothermal heating and cooling system.

Both parts of this campaign are significant. Reducing the debt will take the strain off of the annual budget and increase our capacity for ministry, and



installing a geothermal system will replace our aging equipment with a system whose benefits include a long lifespan, lower operating costs, and an earth-friendly commitment.

The council has decided to pursue these priorities after several years of investigation. I believe God has blessed our congregation with the generational vision and financial capacity to complete this campaign successfully over the next three years. Please think and pray about what part you can play in it. If we all respond generously as the Lord has enabled us, we will reach this goal together.

Blessings,

Jack Roeda

What will our next 40 years look like?

This year marks the start of an important and exciting new leg of our journey together at Church of the Servant. Not only are we celebrating our 40th anniversary as a congregation, but we're also seeing the beginning of a transition in which our first generation of faithful servants is passing the baton to a new generation.

At this historic time, our congregation is facing two pressing challenges with large financial implications:

- The opportunity to reduce our \$1.57 million debt.
- The need to replace the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems in our original building.

Seeing these twin challenges as a critical opportunity to set the next generation up for successful ministry, the council in May 2013 approved the Generation to Generation capital campaign. This is a **three-year, \$1.8 million campaign** with two integral components: debt reduction (for long-term financial sustainability) and geothermal heating and cooling (for energy sustainability).

This landmark effort is based on a solid faith in God and his provision for our future as we prepare for the next 40 years. The council, staff, and campaign leaders are confident about this venture—but the congregation's generous support is essential. With shared sacrifice, we can meet this goal and create a strong foundation for our next generation of service and discipleship.



"This beautiful building has allowed our church to minister in a multitude of ways that would not have been possible otherwise. However, this gift is not without cost. Debt and facility costs make up a significant portion of our budget. This campaign gives us the opportunity to reduce the debt and redirect the savings to the ministries of the church, and a geothermal heating and cooling system reduces costs over the long term. Both of these savings provide additional freedom for our church now and for the church to come. The call to give is not for a few, but for all. We are the church. Please consider how you can help to make these savings a reality."

—Dawn Plescher, past chair of deacons



Campaign Part 1:

Debt Reduction

Church of the Servant has a \$1.57 million mortgage from the construction of our building addition in 2006. We refinanced this loan in March 2013 at an interest rate of 3.82%. The terms of the new mortgage allow us to pay down on the principal early with no penalty. However, this low interest rate and the early-pay option are both available only through March 2018.

So, the more debt we can reduce now through early payments, the more interest savings we will gain. Today our mortgage payments are \$136,000 per year. If we reach the goal of \$1 million in debt reduction, we will save an estimated \$84,000 per year in interest payments, dropping our annual mortgage costs to about \$52,000.

Or think of it this way: For every \$100,000 we put toward debt reduction, \$8,000 in interest is freed up—every year.

Lighter Load, Expanded Ministry

These savings will lighten our collective budget burden each year. Just as importantly, reducing debt will allow us to explore expanded ministry opportunities in the years ahead.

What kinds of opportunities? One ready example is the hiring of a full-time minister of outreach to guide our work in serving our neighbors and making disciples. Today, with just one resident pastor and a part-time outreach minister, it is difficult to meet the many needs of our large and increasingly multicultural body.

Many other ministry ideas have been suggested as well. That's no surprise—we're blessed with passionate people who have good ideas. By slashing our debt, we'll have the flexibility to explore some of the possibilities, whether they relate to worship, faith formation, congregational life, or outreach. Begin to picture it!



Generation to Generation

Church of the Servant Capital Campaign

About the Theme

The theme "Generation to Generation" has a twofold meaning that underscores the two parts of this visionary campaign:

- By paying down on the debt, we'll be putting Church of the Servant's **next generation** in a strong financial position to carry on the church's mission.
- By using geothermal systems, we'll be showing greater care for God's creation in our **energy generation** for heating and cooling.

Campaign Part 2:

Geothermal Heating and Cooling

The conventional heating and cooling system serving the 1994 portion of our building—the 23,700-square-foot original structure consisting mainly of the sanctuary, nursery wing, offices, and kitchen—is at the end of its life and is failing. In considering whether to replace it with a conventional system or a geothermal-based system, the council made a careful comparison of the pros and cons of both systems, including the up-front costs versus costs over time.

Using information provided by an independent engineering consultant as well as our Facilities Committee and Finance Committee, the council decided that the advantages weighed in favor of geothermal.

Counting the Benefits

The benefits of geothermal for Church of the Servant include:

- **Use of a renewable resource** to heat and cool the building, recognizing that electricity will still be needed to run the compressors, fans, and circulation pumps. Switching to this renewable resource will lead to:
 - **Reduced carbon emissions.** Installing a geothermal system in the original part of the building will reduce our carbon footprint by an estimated 15%; converting the newer part of the building later will bring this number to an estimated 30%. Carbon emissions contribute directly to global climate change, which has a disproportionate impact on the world's poor.
 - **Reduced energy consumption**—both natural gas and electricity.
- **Lower operating costs.** Initially we expect to save at least \$12,000 per year in utilities and maintenance.
- **Significantly longer equipment lifespan**, resulting in far lower replacement costs.
- **Better air quality.** Because geothermal heating doesn't burn natural gas, no carbon monoxide is produced.
- **Expandability** to accommodate the 2006 building addition.
- **Meaningful expression** of our longstanding commitment to creation care.



The field shown here is the proposed site for the geothermal wells.



"As one of the founding members of Church of the Servant, I enthusiastically affirm the Generation to Generation campaign. The financial savings and the earth-care that the success of the campaign will achieve carry forward the traditions of COS and are, for me, compelling reasons to support it."

—Nicholas Wolterstorff, charter member

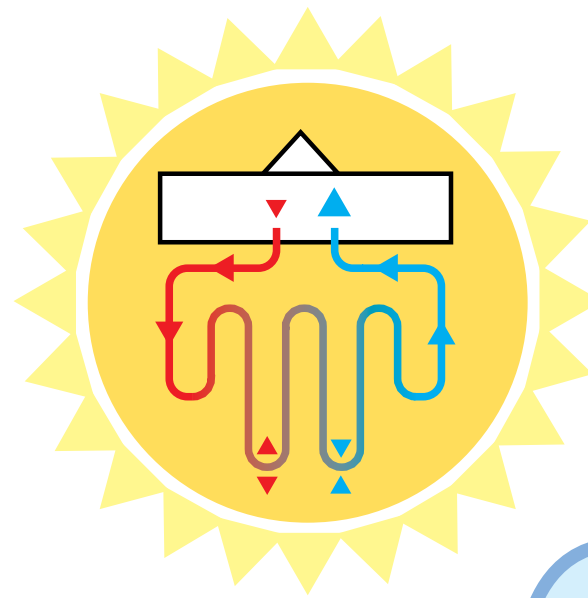
How Geothermal Works

A geothermal system uses the constant temperature of the earth (52°F) to heat and cool a building. It is a closed-loop heat exchange system. Our system will have a field of dozens of bores drilled 400 feet deep in the area between our building and the Gainey athletic fields. The bores will house high-density plastic pipes surrounded by an energy-transferring grout.

The pipes in the geothermal bore field will be connected via our main heat exchanger/pump to additional pipes that run inside the building, creating an internal loop. With help from a set of pumps and an air handling system, a water-based fluid will circulate within the pipes, moving back and forth between the bore field and the internal loop. This fluid will absorb heat from the ground in winter and release heat into the ground in summer. Inside the building, the air will be moved by fans.

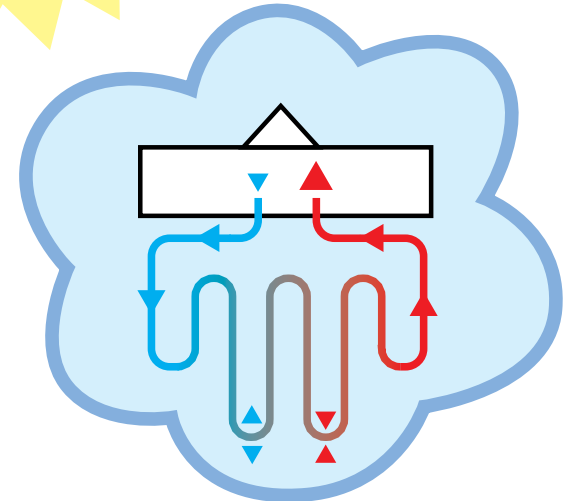
Our heat exchanger/pump and valves will be sized for the whole building to anticipate future system expansion. This will add very little to the cost of the first phase and will save money when the time is right for the second phase.

In short, this project will lay the groundwork for our next 40 years of faithful ministry in this part of God's world.



**Summer
cooling**

**Winter
heating**



"When my husband and I were quite young, we had a fundraising meeting for Church of the Servant at our house. We didn't have a building, we didn't have plans, but we knew we needed to begin fundraising. Afterwards a group of us were sitting around the kitchen table and I remember us saying, 'We're only in our early 30s—what are we doing building a church?' I say that as a challenge to those of you who are young: Add to this legacy. Be a part of it. Contribute. Because a lot of what this church has become was built with the imaginations of very young people."

—Claudia Beversluis, charter member and former staff member



Our community garden

A Passion for Creation Care

Caring for God's creation has always been important for members of Church of the Servant. Installing a geothermal system will take us one large step further along the path of environmental stewardship. Other examples of this congregational commitment include:

- Roadside cleanups, recycling initiatives, invasive species removal, and other environmental activities.
- Use of native grasses and wildflowers in our landscaping and drought-tolerant lawn grass to eliminate the need for irrigation.
- Our community garden for neighbors and members.
- Energy-efficient facility improvements, such as increased insulation, a building automation system, efficient interior and exterior lighting, reflective roofing materials, and more.

"I think the opportunity to reduce our need for fossil fuels by investing in a renewable energy geothermal system is a great testimony to our neighbors that we take a mandate to be stewards of God's good creation seriously."

—Mark Muyskens, chair
of the Facilities heating
and cooling team



A New Occasion for Leadership

Church of the Servant has often found itself in a position of leadership because of our commitment to certain ideas and principles—advocating for women in church leadership, combating racism, welcoming children at the Lord’s Supper, incorporating the arts in worship, and so on. With our move to geothermal heating and cooling, we’ll be leading in the use of earth-friendly technologies in a church setting.

To our knowledge, we will be the first church in West Michigan to implement geothermal. But we’ll be in good company. Grand Rapids has made a name for itself nationally as a green building community. Several geothermal projects already in place locally

include the Downtown Market, the Salvation Army Kroc Center, the Porter Hills Green House homes, a Gordon Food Service building, the 63rd District Court, and the Kent County Correctional Facility.

Our geothermal system will give us access to a renewable energy resource that doesn’t depend on whether the sun shines or the wind blows, and it will be a concrete demonstration of our care for God’s world.

“As an elder, I have seen lives transformed, including my own, in the Basic English Service, parish care, and prison ministries. I am confident that the debt relief achieved through the Gen2Gen campaign will enable ministries like these to grow at Church of the Servant, as we open ourselves to God’s work in and through us.”

—Lisa VanArragon,
elder for Parish 9

Congregational Milestones

1973 – Church of the Servant was officially established as a congregation of the Christian Reformed Church. The congregation grew out of a loosely organized group of worshipers called Fellowship of the Acts.

1983 – On Pentecost Sunday, Jack Roeda became the church's second pastor. As the church grew, it continued to uphold the vision of having as many members as possible actively involved in the life of the body.

1994 – For its first two decades, Church of the Servant met for worship in rented spaces. Eventually, the congregation put down roots and constructed a building. The original portion of our building was dedicated in January 1994. The building's design carefully reflected the character of the congregation. The worship space is centered on a tree of life, with a "village square" surrounding it and an exterior representing the diversity of the community. *The aging heating and cooling system in this portion of the building is what this campaign seeks to replace.*

2006 – With expanding membership and limited classroom, outreach, and fellowship space, the congregation built an addition to the church building—the portion that houses our main entry, café area, fellowship space, classrooms, and youth room. *The mortgage remaining from this addition is the debt that this campaign seeks to reduce.*

2013 – At the start of our 40th year, the church council launched the \$1.8 million Generation to Generation campaign to address current needs and put Church of the Servant in a strong position to expand our ministry capacity for future generations.





Your Decision to Give

The Generation to Generation vision is clear. So how will we respond?

Only you know your ability to give to the project, but **we encourage you to think big**. Given a three-year window to fulfill your pledge, what can you do to make our debt repayment and geothermal project a reality? Are you in a position to consider an extraordinary gift over and above your regular giving?

We encourage you to give careful thought and prayer to your response to this challenge as a steward of the resources God has entrusted to you. If you would like to talk with someone from the campaign committee about your gift, please contact one of us.

→ **Please return your Generation to Generation pledge form in its envelope by November 3, 2013.**

Thank you for considering this request! Let's work together to make this innovative effort a wonderful gift for future generations at Church of the Servant.

Then we your people, the sheep of your pasture,
will praise you forever;
from generation to generation
we will proclaim your praise. Psalm 79:13



Generation to Generation

Gen2Gen Committee

Eve Clayton
David Diephouse
Jay Ediger
Pete Harkema
Tom McWhertor, chair
Mark Muyskens
Pastor Jack Roeda, honorary
Carole Vander Pols
Lori Wiersma



**CHURCH OF THE
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CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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