

SUMMARY CASE STATEMENT FOR MISSION/OUTREACH COMPONENT OF THIRD CHURCH CAPITAL FUNDS CAMPAIGN

The Third Presbyterian Church Capital Campaign Cabinet and our church officers have unanimously endorsed a sizable outreach/mission component as a key element of the campaign. The Third Church congregation approved this vision at its November 4, 2007 meeting. This commitment is consistent with our history and reflects our proud tradition as an outwardly-focused congregation. It is also consistent with Presbytery guidelines concerning capital campaigns.

Programmatically in recent years, our outreach efforts have been targeted on economic development, homelessness relief, hunger relief, hurricane relief, inclusivity with regard to race and sexual orientation, public education, stewardship of the earth, and world mission/peacemaking. Our campaign outreach/mission vision builds on four of these eight areas and is based on the following assumptions and commitments:

Why a Mission/Outreach Component of the Campaign?

- ❖ Outreach is at the heart of who we are as a congregation and as a people witnessing to God's justice and love and to the larger community. A significant outreach component of the campaign makes a strong and tangible statement about our theological commitment to community and the common good, and about what our priorities are and will continue to be, even as we address our internal capital needs at the same time.
- ❖ There are a number of ways the proposed building enhancements will strengthen our outreach impact, both of our own programs (such as the Dining Room Ministry and the Food Cupboard) and given the broad use of our building by the community (including RAIHN and numerous other organizations).
- ❖ Equally important, the campaign will include a major commitment to four initiatives beyond our walls (at local, national and international levels), through which our dollars will substantially impact the larger community in ways which could not otherwise be undertaken. *Just as we envision through the campaign strengthening our own infrastructure and its capacity to support and enhance the life of our congregation, we have also built in support for infrastructure improvements in underserved communities which can play a significant role in church, economic and community growth and development.*
- ❖ We are committed to using our capital funds to leverage other community resources and to work in partnership with other congregations and community groups to enhance outcomes. Each of our four priority focus areas involves significant collaborative partnerships with others, thereby leveraging and expanding Third Church's role and contributions.
- ❖ Each project would combine the use of dollars with commitment of volunteer resources on an ongoing basis.
- ❖ The proposed projects each involve one-time or short-term dollars not designed to build programs that will require on-going financial support. On the other hand, we believe our commitment of capital funds can create facilities and programs that will enhance services and create ongoing mission and volunteer opportunities well into the future, long after our capital dollars have accomplished their mission. Further, the overall endowment component of the campaign is designed to give relief to all parts of our annual budgets—including support for our outreach commitments.

What Is the Rationale Behind Each Outreach Project?

New Life Presbyterian Church and the Upper Monroe Neighborhood

The Need and Opportunity: New Life Presbyterian Church, at the corner of Monroe Avenue and Rosedale Street, is a small, redeveloping church seeking to meet the needs of a neighborhood in transition and in need of support. Third Church has been part of a support network for both New Life and the Upper Monroe neighborhood, and is working with church and community leaders to develop a plan for addressing unmet capital needs. In December 2007, the New Life and Third Church Sessions approved a partnership relationship to link more formally the missions of the two congregations.

What Third Church Can Do: \$100,000 is proposed from the campaign to address a capital need at New Life that could not otherwise be met and which will in turn benefit the larger surrounding community. The specific project will be determined in mutual consultation, based on New Life's strategic vision, and will address the need for better use of the existing facility, and in turn enhance future church and community programming.

Potential Impact: An improved New Life facility, additional programming for the church and surrounding neighborhood, and a deepened partnership relationship between Third Church, New Life and the Upper Monroe community, as well as the Presbytery of Genesee Valley. Our investment can also help leverage other investments that may be delayed or not made without our initial seed contribution.

Housing Partnership with Habitat for Humanity in Crescent Area of Rochester

The Need and Opportunity: The School 17/Josanna neighborhood (near PAETEC Park in west/southwest Rochester) is characterized by block after block of deteriorating housing, low rates of home ownership, high transiency, high rates of housing code violations, and a high incidence of lead paint poisoning among children living in the old housing stock in the neighborhood. Habitat for Humanity is proposing a major effort to build new safe and affordable housing to help stabilize this area. Habitat indicates the potential for building 100 or more homes in this area, given sufficient resources. Third Church can make a significant contribution to that resource base.

What Third Church Can Do: With a proposed \$650,000 contribution from the capital campaign, Third Church by itself can build 8-10 houses over a three-year period. Furthermore, we would leverage our funding and commitment with other faith communities in the Rochester area. It is our expectation that we would spearhead a coalition of congregations which, together, would commit to building a total of a dozen houses or more in partnership with Habitat in this one neighborhood.

Potential Impact: Our funding and volunteer commitment to 8-10 houses will be used to leverage at least five other houses built with the partnership support of other faith communities, thereby serving as a catalyst for a concentrated focus which would provide a critical mass of new housing to help revitalize and stabilize a targeted troubled neighborhood, while also providing home ownership opportunities for families not otherwise likely to be able to afford to own a home.

Post-Katrina Relief & Advocacy in New Orleans/Gulf Coast Region

The Need and Opportunity: Since Hurricane Katrina ravaged the gulf coast in 2005, Third Church has sent three (four by 3/08) groups to aid in the restoration of this devastated region. Each

group has provided hope and tangible assistance to two to three families, and the efforts of these 40 Third Churchers have helped rebuild homes and strengthen neighborhoods. But this activity, as important and rewarding as it has been, has addressed only a small fraction of the need, and it is apparent that the relief effort must be sustained for several more years. Building on the contacts made and the knowledge acquired as to the practical and political circumstances surrounding the relief effort, Third Church is well positioned to provide leadership in the Rochester community to not only continue, but to expand the number and scope of volunteer efforts.

What Third Church Can Do: The capital campaign envisions Third Church becoming a catalyst to educate, motivate, organize and coordinate other Rochester church, civic, college/university and business groups to comprise an even more significant volunteer force in the New Orleans region. Specifically proposed is creation of a \$100,000 fund to support the rebuilding of hope and homes in New Orleans and the gulf coast in several ways: 1) supporting two Third Church-sponsored groups/year for up to three years to continue hands-on relief work; 2) capital support for building materials and tools needed by churches in New Orleans which are using volunteer efforts to rebuild homes; 3) underwriting the cost of a local community organizer to advocate for, stimulate, facilitate, and coordinate post-Katrina follow-up efforts by Rochester volunteer work groups over the next two years. This advocate would work to keep Katrina issues alive and in the public's consciousness, motivating and enabling local groups to send people and other resources to the gulf coast area. The fund might be named the Rochester RHINO (Restoring Hope in New Orleans) Fund.

Potential Impact: By using our resources to leverage those of others, we can magnify the impact the Rochester community can have in effecting change in the New Orleans region. We anticipate that, over the next two years, 20-25 groups would be stimulated to go to the gulf coast, their efforts coordinated with churches and other volunteer groups to ensure their most productive use, and that each group would assist 2-3 homeowners. To those questioning the wisdom of investing in a city so geographically vulnerable to hurricanes, it is important to note that the houses to be rebuilt would be in needy neighborhoods judged to be relatively sound risks, given current levee repairs, to withstand future flood damage. Continuing to provide hope and practical support for those in need in New Orleans is important—not only because of the inadequacy of government response in rebuilding this unique city that plays such an important part in our national culture and our national economy, but because it is the right and moral thing to do at a human level.

Partnership with the Presbyterian Church of East Africa

The Need and Opportunity: The Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) has undergone astounding growth in the last decade. The current membership is 4.2 million, whereas 10 years ago it was under 3 million. In contrast the PC(U.S.A.) has a membership of 2.4 million. The PCEA has 3000 congregations and 300 ministers. Congregations need to be strengthened and stabilized. Furthermore, there is an educational crisis in Kenya. Each year 80,000 high school students pass the qualifying examination for university admissions. Due to limited capacity of the country's existing universities, only 22,000 of those students will actually be able to attend, only about 1 of every 4 eligible students. In this context, a formal mission partnership with the Kihumo Presbyterian Parish has been established by action of Third Church's Session in 2007. In addition, Third Church has received an informal offer to become involved in a partnership led by First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta to help convert the existing Presbyterian College in Nairobi to a full-fledged University, with the potential to meet more student needs.

What Third Church Can Do: With a one-time commitment of \$200,000 (\$150,000 to the Kihumo congregation and \$50,000 to the emerging University), a contribution would be made to help the

Kihumo congregation solidify its outreach ministry, and a capital contribution, in conjunction with other American Presbyterians, would help create needed additional facilities at the Presbyterian University site. (Uniquely, the Kenyan government requires the creation of a physical campus before additional faculty are hired, due to the necessity of providing a place to study for their glut of potential students.)

Potential Impact: With the recent upheavals in Kenya, our efforts will be even more important in helping to stabilize this part of the country. Financial resources are only the leading edge of what could be a significant, long-term Third Church mission relationship in Kenya. A Third Church group will be traveling to Kenya later in 2008 to solidify the details of the partnership with the Kihumo Church and with the university. Such a partnership would create the first international mission project through Third Church in more than a generation. This Kenyan mission partnership provides an opportunity to address significant needs in a part of the world struggling to gain an economic foothold.

Project Oversight

The specific allocation of the available funds for the outreach component of the capital campaign will be overseen by the Third Church Outreach Committee (or a group appointed by it), subject to approval of Session. If actual funds raised by the capital campaign do not enable allocation of the full \$1,050,000, this group would recommend the most appropriate allocation of available funds across the four proposed components. This group will also coordinate, with the Outreach Committee, the integration of these capital projects into the ongoing work of the Third Church outreach ministry.

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