



**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS  
CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER REBUILD  
MARCH 2024**

**Why are we not building the Christian Life Center (CLC) back to the way it was before?**

At the time the CLC was completed 20 years ago, it represented our church's best visionary and faithful response to the ministry needs and resources available at the time. Over the last two decades, however, those ministry needs and our larger cultural context have changed significantly. In order to be faithful to our mission to connect all people to Jesus Christ today, new spaces for new approaches to ministry are needed.

**Has the congregation had input?**

Yes, we were so grateful for the amazing response of our congregation to our survey. We took the feedback we received very seriously. Then we found representative leaders from all of the areas that have done ministry in the CLC; this group became the "Ideation Team." From this group we again honed the vision for the rebuild through many meetings and conversations. When this team felt they had narrowed the scope, then a "Committee of 6" was formed out of the Ideation Team to do the tedious work of transforming our vision into architectural designs.

With much hard work the "Committee of 6" then reported back to the Ideation Team and the Ideation Team then offered their recommendation to the Lead Team. And now the Lead Team brings it to you!

This rebuild didn't come out of long term planning, but came as a shock to us all. Because of the unique nature of this rebuild process we have been doing our best to balance moving as quickly as possible with not moving too quickly. We have spent much time in prayer and we have sought the wisdom of the Spirit of God to guide all our plans. We hope that you will join our prayers as we anticipate the next steps.

**Why are we moving the offices?**

There are many benefits to moving the offices. Not only will they be much easier to find and more accessible to guests in their new location, but they will also provide a safer work environment with multiple exits and ground-level egress. The new configuration will also foster collaboration and a positive team spirit among our staff.

**Why are we moving the music suite?**

Music is one of the most vital ministries here at Missouri UMC, and centralizing it into its own suite will allow for more focused and coordinated development of its essential activities in our church. In addition, moving the music suite nearer to the Sanctuary will allow the choir to be much closer to the choir loft. While the acoustics in the new music suite may not be ideal, there were also challenges in the choir room's previous location.

## **How much will the rebuild cost?**

The cost of the rebuild is estimated at \$1,700,000. Insurance will cover about \$1,685,000, leaving a difference of approximately \$15,000. Additional costs (architecture fees, equipment, audio-video, etc.) brings the total cost to \$1,950,000 (not including office furniture), leaving an estimated total out-of-pocket cost to the church of \$265,000.

## **Is the CLC rebuild connected to the elevator renovation project?**

No. The elevator renovation, estimated at \$440,000, is not connected to the CLC rebuild. In fact, because of time-tables and grant moneys for which we've applied, it is necessary to keep these two projects separate.

## **Are there any other financial matters we should be aware of?**

Pledges for 2024 are increased over 2023, and our ministries are growing! At the same time, operation costs are also up, and certain one-time funding sources are no longer available. The Lead Team is prayerfully managing finances to allow ministries to continue to grow with fiscal responsibility.

## **What about furniture in the CLC?**

The decorations committee is working hard to repurpose and reuse our existing furniture to keep the purchase of new items to a minimum.

## **What about audio-video (AV) in the CLC?**

The brand new City Worship space will be set up with the intention of creating a high quality modern worship experience. The initial build will balance cost and quality, setting up a system that will be flexible enough to adapt with the ever-changing technological landscape.

## **How will we pay for the rebuild?**

We have three main options for funding the rebuild:

- *Capital campaign.* It has been many years since our church had a capital campaign, and many new members have never had the opportunity to give above-and-beyond for God's dreams. There is a hunger to give of ourselves today like previous generations gave for us.
- *Reserve funds.* God has blessed our church deeply through the generosity of the saints. These gifts were meant to be put to good use for the work of Christ today.
- *Debt.* Missouri UMC currently has no debt. The amount of the last mortgage we took out 20 years ago for the initial build of the CLC was around \$2.8 million.

The Lead Team is prayerfully considering these options—or a combination of more than one. The decision will be made soon and communicated to the congregation.

## **When will the rebuilt CLC open?**

We expect the rebuilt Christian Life Center to be open by the end of 2024.