

The James Company Executive Summary on St. Mary's Funding the Future Feasibility Study

1. Over the course of 6 weeks, the congregation was informed and invited to participate in the Feasibility Study process by weekly bulletin and e-news announcements, articles in The Messenger newsletter, worship announcements, dialogue sessions and a congregation-wide mailing of an information brochure and survey.
2. There was a strong congregational response to the process: 150 people completed the survey. 173 people attending the four Dialogue Sessions. 34 individuals participated in 22 interviews. We estimate that at least 25% of your active, worshipping congregation participated in the process in some way, which is an excellent response and more than sufficient to test the readiness and willingness of the congregation to engage in a Capital Campaign.
3. The surveys showed that 73.6% of the congregation supports moving forward with a Capital Campaign at this time, while 20.3% are uncertain. Most of the uncertainty stems from either 1) lack of clarity about the goals, specific projects and costs and/or 2) personal financial situations.
4. 5% of those who responded to the survey and 86.4% of those interviewed said they would financially support a Capital Campaign. 57.1% of those interviewed (11 households) said they would consider a leadership gift of \$10,000 to \$250,000.
5. Based on what we heard from the congregation the Capital Campaign should, off the top, include a Tithe to Outreach. Other Capital Campaign projects in priority order should be:
 - Caring for Church Facilities
 - Paying off the Rectory debt in order to free up additional funds in the budget
 - Exploring the redevelopment of some of the 26th Street properties
 - Growing the Foundation
6. Where needs and goals were clearly articulated, particularly around facility maintenance, there was strong support from the congregation for providing capital funds. In those areas where there was less clarity (“going green,” the Foundation, how the outreach tithe will be used, and the possibilities for redevelopment of the 26th Street properties), there were more questions and a desire for more specifics.
7. We believe that there is strong congregational support for a Capital Campaign this fall at St. Mary’s, concurrent with your Annual Stewardship Campaign, and we think it is feasible to raise between \$3 and \$4 million dollars in a three-year campaign.
8. We recommend that the church leadership complete the Capital Audit and also engage the services of an architect to see what is possible for the redevelopment of 1 – 2 properties at 26th Street and Glebe Rd prior to beginning the Capital Campaign.