

HOW DO WE RAISE MONEY FOR OUR PLEDGE?

The following are SUGGESTIONS and IDEAS of ways churches can raise funds to pay their Bridges to the Future pledges. If you are looking for fundraising ideas, there is probably something in here that will help you and your fundraising committee. However, don't stop here! Be creative!



Some general things to consider:

- Remember to keep the FUN in the Fundraising---be creative, involve fellowship, and bring in the community.
- LAITY AND CLERGY: Use laity and clergy in planning—this brings in laity leadership and gives everyone a stake in the success of the fundraising efforts.
- PRAYER: While prayer may not directly produce pledges, prayer can be an incredibly helpful tool in the pledge process for all involved.
- EDUCATION: The better educated the giver is on the ministry that they are donating to, the better chance of them giving more toward the ministry. People give to causes they understand, believe in, and see others passionate about.
- HAVE A PLAN: Set and honor a timeline of how to educate members, pray for the ministries, and execute a plan for fundraising. The better this is communicated to your congregation and community the more likely there is a chance for success in raising funds.
- COMMUNITY: Open the fundraising past your own church. Involve the community. This provides outreach as well as taps into funds outside those of your congregation.
- PROMOTION: Best laid plans will go unnoticed unless well communicated to others to invite them to be involved.
- NON-PROFIT: Please note that while it is easy to come up with the idea of “selling tickets” or offering things for sale, all churches have non-profit status and it is important to adhere to the guidelines for non-profits. Ask your church administrator, Administrative Council, or church treasurer to review these guidelines with you.



Create a committee that is in charge of fundraising:

- Pull together a variety of people that “think outside the box”.
- Brainstorm a plan to develop and execute plans to raise funds to meet the pledge.
- Ask this group to make a 5-year commitment to this committee. Have the group develop clear guidelines of their role. Clarity of responsibility keeps volunteers.



Offer Prayer opportunities for your church & individuals:

- Consider a prayer breakfast quarterly that would allow the church to focus on the Bridges to the Future ministries, offer some educational pieces to these ministries, but above all spend time as a church in prayer for these ministries and how your church can help fund them.
- Offer a prayer guide, calendar or journal for the individuals in your church to use to pray about the Bridges to the Future ministries and your church’s connection with them. Include in that prayer journal or calendar some of your local ministries or church ministries as well. SEE ENCLOSED PRAYER CALENDAR
- REMEMBER: Even if your church feels they cannot raise much or any money for the Bridges campaign, your church’s prayers will open doors for these ministries as well as your church’s involvement.



Create a pledge drive within the church:

- Can be done in a variety of ways
- SEE THE ENCLOSED tri-fold sample flyer from Emporia First
- Use an envelope in the back of the pew—SEE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE SAMPLES



Plan a yearly “Bridges to the Future Celebration”:

- Set aside one Sunday a year to feature, celebrate and fund the Bridges to the Future ministries.
- Pick one aspect each year of the campaign and focus on that ministry.
- For example, with a focus on camping invite a speaker from Camp Chippewa, sing camp songs, have hotdogs and roast marshmallows. With a focus on campus ministry have everyone wear their favorite college attire, invite a campus minister and/or student to lead worship and have a tailgate party for lunch.
- Collect donations and/or individual pledges for donations on these days.



Plan quarterly “Bridges to the Future education” Sundays:

- Invite speakers from the conference to give the message one Sunday a quarter about the Bridges to the Future ministries. SEE THE ENCLOSED LIST OF SPEAKERS AVAILABLE.
- Keep a theme going. For example: Summer: Camp Chippewa, Fall: Campus Ministry, Winter: New Church Starts, Spring: Church Revitalization.
- Collect offerings on these Sundays just for Bridges to the Future.



Bridges to the Future Mission Auction:

- Ask items to be donated for auctioned .
- Types of Auctions: Live, Silent, on-line.
- While silent or on-line auctions are the easiest, consider including a live auction for large items and make it an event with a meal, entertainment, silent auction and live auction.
- Have not only church members donate items but also get businesses in the community to donate items and advertise it, inviting the community to come participate in the auction.
- Be creative---set up fun categories whether it be a “theme basket” to auction (ie: BBQ, family game night, entertainment, etc.) or entire “theme rooms” that participants can wander and bid on items from that theme (ie: Kids room, teen room, electronic room, sports room etc,)
- Do you know an auctioneer who would donate their time for a good cause? This can liven up an auction and a good auctioneer will help increase bidding.



Theme Dinners or Events:

- Plan a Friday or Saturday fellowship meal at the church.
- For a donation church members can become a host/hostess for a table and then invite guest to join them for the meal. The host can have a grand time decorating their table for their guest. Ideas might include using their fine china, offering a theme in their table setting and decorations, or sporting their school colors.
- Music, entertainment, hymn sing-a-long, or games can be included as part of the evening.
- The same can be done for a game night: for a donation individuals and families can come play Bunco, trivia games (it's fun to do this with United Methodist and local trivia as well), church Olympics, and more!



Campus Ministry Tailgate:

- On the day of a good rival football game (depending on where you live in the state and the make up of your congregation this could be KU vs. KSU, ESU vs. PSU, etc.) invite the congregation and/or community to tailgate in the church parking lot and then assemble in the church to watch the big game.
- Thanks to technology many games that may not be on local TV can be brought to you via the internet. Get your church technical-guru involved here.
- Don't have a big screen? Rent (or get it donated) a big screen TV for the day.
- Of course everyone wears their team's favorite attire!
- Consider having jars representing each of the 7 state colleges. Participants can put donations into the jar of their liking and whichever school has the most money donates "wins" and all the money is donated to Bridges to the Future for Campus Ministry.



Chiefs and Church:

- Like the suggestion above, offer a tailgate and a screen to watch the big game on a Sunday after church when the Kansas City Chiefs are playing.
- Ask people to donate whatever dollar amount they would be willing to pay for a ticket, parking, and refreshments to the game to the Bridges Ministries
- Note: This is the most profitable when the Chiefs are having a winning season!



Church Retreat to Camp Chippewa:

- Reserve Camp Chippewa for an all-church retreat
- Make it a time of fellowship and spiritual renewal while educating your church members on the ministries as well as the needs of Camp Chippewa.
- While this may not directly raise immediate funds for your church, it will help educate members on this wonderful place and ministry we have in our conference. Church members might also be inspired to go raise funds after their experience.



Working with Individuals to give:

- Look at the top 10-20% of your givers in your church or select a handful of givers in your church that might be attracted to the Bridges to the Future ministries.
- Educate them on the Bridges ministries by either holding a special reception or meeting and talking with them one-on-one about these ministries and how they can help your church make an impact in the conference's work in these ministries.
- Building a relationship with potential givers helps in the donor's decision to pledge. Consider how you can get to know these potential givers and connect them to giving in an area that would make them feel good about giving. This may take a few meetings, one-on-one conversations, and some time. Donors are *people* and not just donors. Build a relationship with them.
- Remember: Giving is a spiritual experience that can offer the giver a great sense of joy. Connecting donors with giving opportunities can help deepen their faith when approached with a sense of stewardship.
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FOOD! FOOD! FOOD!

- It is part of our United Methodist heritage to break bread together!
- Remember to invite people outside your congregation to be a part of these fundraisers.
- The fellowship that comes with these functions is priceless.
- So many people go out to eat after worship. Why not offer the after church meal at the church and use the money that would have gone to a restaurant to be used as a donation toward Bridges to the Future ministries?



Dessert Auction:

- Church members donate desserts to be auctioned off: either a single dessert or a “dessert a month”.
- Be creative---Don’t just offer dessert. Offer the dessert on a nice stand, in a picnic basket, in a basket with games for family game night, or one that comes with linens and a colorful tea set.



Souper Bowl Sunday:

- On Super Bowl Sunday (often the last Sunday in January or First Sunday in February) offer a Soup Supper.
- Gather donated, unique soup bowls and cups---such as hand pottered bowls, ones made by a mission somewhere, hand painted by children in the church, or even plain ones with a special message written on the outside by volunteers with a crafty hand.
- Serve the soup in these bowls and tell the participants they get to take the bowl home with them. Ask for donations for the dinner---larger donations will come due to the unique bowl that they receive.
- Don’t limit this to Super Bowl Sunday. Try it anytime and/or fill the bowl with other items: Chili, stew, pasta, etc.



Feast on Ethnic Food:

- Many new church starts in our conference are formed with and for various ethnic groups.
- When talking about new church starts on a featured Sunday, serve an ethnic meal immediately following worship.
- Consider getting some ideas, recipes, and support of this idea through the conference’s many ethnic churches. Call the conference office for a list of churches and contact names/numbers.



Sunday Dinners:

- While there are as many ideas of how to do this as there are Sundays in a year, here are a few creative suggestions.
- Offer it once a month all year, or offer/advertise it for 8 consecutive Sundays to build on it each week, offer it quarterly, etc.
- Invite members to sign up to host the Sunday dinner. Ask them to donate the food. Individuals will be asked to donate a specific amount for the dinner. Hosts can have fun with themes, be creative or showing off their “specialty”.
- Medium and large churches can divide the cost of a hosted meal by having 3 different hosts and each offering a different kind of meal. For example: One host does a kids meal (ie: hotdogs, cut out PB&J’s, etc.), one host does a youth meal (ie: tacos, pizza, sub sandwiches, etc.) and one host does an adult meal (ie: chicken parmesan, pork tenderloin, brisket, etc.). This offers variety so more people would attend and hence more donations! This allows for both hosts and participants to have a choice for the price and type of food.



Church groups get involved:

- Ask UMW, UMM, the youth group and children’s ministries, etc. to get involved.
- Ask each group to head one fundraiser a year that will go toward the Bridge’s ministries. Some of this will fall out naturally because youth like raising funds for campus ministry, kids are a natural for Camp Chippewa, etc.

MY FAVORITE CHURCH FUND RAISING IDEA:

As campaign director I heard about this idea and even though they did not set out to make this a Bridges to the Future fund raiser, it is too good of an idea to keep a secret. Strong City UMC is well aware of the motorcycle convoys that go past their church on the first Sunday of each month as the congregation worships. Passing this church is on a well known route of motorcycle clubs. The church decided this spring to offer a lunch to passing motorcyclist in return for a donation to a local ministry. Sure enough, the cyclist stopped, good food was served in the church lawn (ie: BBQ sandwiches, chips, and pop), fellowship took place, and ministry happened. In the first Sunday alone they raised over \$500 to go toward medical expenses for children without health insurance. I would not doubt there was a bit of evangelism happening as well.

