ADVENT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Glory to God, who is able to do far **beyond** all that we could ask or imagine by His power at work within us; glory to Him in the church and in Christ Jesus for all generations, forever and always. Amen.*

—Ephesians 3:20-21 CEB

Back in the 1980s, the leaders of the South Carolina United Methodist Church had a vision. Armed with demographic projections that 33% of the growth in Greenville County would occur in the Woodruff Road corridor, they dreamed of a new congregation. The goal? To serve this burgeoning community by creating a new outpost to fulfill the mission of the entire United Methodist Church: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

In 1986, 17 faithful disciples starting meeting in the Heritage Lakes clubhouse. In short order, the property at 2258 Woodruff Road was purchased, and this emerging congregation chose the name Advent. What has happened between then and now is the tale of what God can do when we are willing to risk stepping out in faith and obedience.

If you ask any of Advent's charter members, I am confident they will tell you that, back in 1986, they could never have imagined all that God would do in and through our church family. They could not have dreamed large enough to chronicle all the children and youth who would be shaped in the faith and into leaders in the church. They would not have imagined all the ministries and missions that would be spawned, the mission trips taken, the love and community shared. All of these things would have been beyond what they could have asked for or imagined. When we are faithful, God has a way of shattering our expectations…in a good way.

During Christmas of 2014, God once again did far beyond what we imagined when we stepped out in faith to provide physical homes for homeless families in our community; $265,000, two homes already purchased, and more on the horizon, which will make an impact for decades to come. None of us were dreaming that big!

But, the BEYOND initiative is not about what has already happened. BEYOND is about what God is yet to do, things that we have not yet even imagined. Over the next two years, we have a unique opportunity to make decisions and invest in our congregation in ways that position us for God's future. We can ensure that both people who are currently here AND those who will move to the Five Forks area in years to come can discover the grace and love of God as well as find a family with us here, at Advent. At Christmas of 2014, we gave generously to provide physical homes for homeless families. Now, we have the opportunity to give generously to provide a faith home for the spiritually homeless to develop and grow a relationship with Christ.

I cannot wait to see what God does through the dedication and generosity of our church family. Here's what I know; God will again do far beyond what we could ask for or imagine!

– Pastor Michael

Are you ready to go BEYOND?

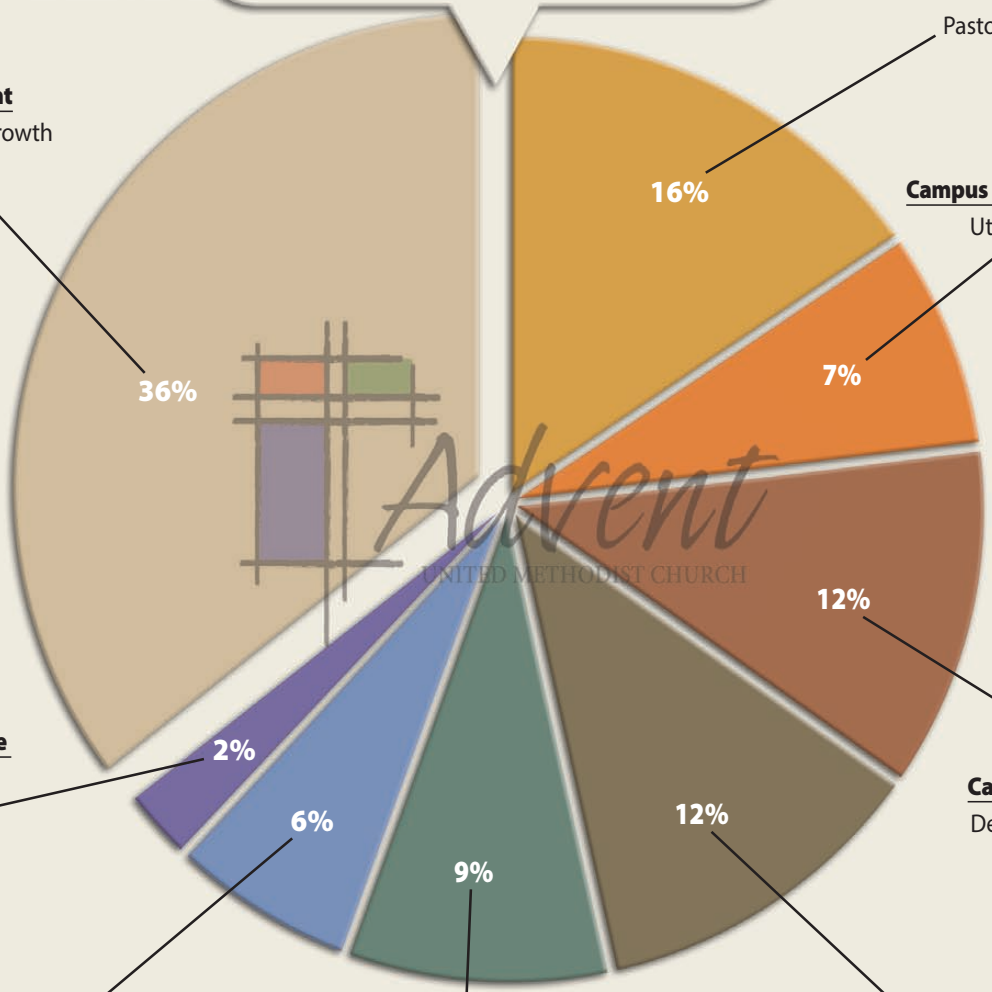
What Is The BEYOND Initiative?

The **BEYOND** Initiative is our **two year** (2016-2017) ministry plan that is a new direction for the way we budget, allocate, raise and spend our resources in a manner that helps us accomplish our mission. It is important to understand that the BEYOND Initiative is NOT a capital campaign. It is a plan celebrating that each and every dollar given is allocated to Advent's ministry, mission and growth. It involves INVESTING not only in continuing Advent's mission, but also growing the mission that God has entrusted us.

Ultimately the BEYOND Initiative allows our Leadership Committee, Church Council and Staff to set priorities by looking ahead in a longer-term time horizon that allows for greater clarity of Advent's mission. Our intent is that this approach will allow for our members and constituents to more closely PARTNER in Advent's growth and direction, as we seek to further God's mission here locally and worldwide.

	Growth in Ministry & Facilities	Growth in Membership	Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance
1980's	Greenville District and SC Annual Conference begins to study Woodruff Road area for rapid growth.		
1986	Services begin at Heritage Lakes clubhouse in June, 1986 with 17 in attendance under the direction of newly appointed Rev. Clarence "Smoke" Kanipe.	**17**	**30**
1987	New church called "Advent" chartered with 63 members.	**63**	**55**
1988	First building on Woodruff Road built (current music suite), housing worship space, offices and Sunday School.	**150**	**75**
1993	The current Education wing is built connected to the existing Worship space.	**250**	**184**
1999 **2001**	In 1999, construction begins on the current Sanctuary building, completed in 2001. Rev. Susan Leonard-Ray appointed new minister of Advent UMC in June, 2001.	**500** **630**	**363** **433**
2005 **2007**	Additional land and the Advent House purchased to provide room for growth. In August of 2007, the Christian Life Center consecrated. The 16,400 sq. ft. two-floor facility cost $1.8 million.	**1,025** **1,200**	**622** **641**
2010	Following a period of tremendous growth, Rev. Susan Leonard-Ray departs to become District Superintendent with the South Carolina Conference. Rev. Michael Wolfe appointed as Advent's third Senior Pastor in June, 2010.	**1,500**	**728**
2012 **Today**	In September, 2012, Advent receives its fourth senior pastor, the Rev. Michael A. Turner, who was mentored in the early days of Advent by Rev. Smoke Kanipe.	**1,600** **2,000+**	**682** **750+**

Total Two-Year Proposed Budget
$5 MILLION



Pastoral Care & Administration Staff
Pastoral and Administration salaries and costs
$784,000

Campus Operations & Facilities
Utilities, repairs, cleaning, grounds care
$372,000

Capital and Debt Service
Debt principal and interest
$583,000

Worship, Nurture, Music & Evangelism
Adult ministries and Music ministries, salaries and programs
$601,000

Next Generation Ministries
Youth & Children's ministries, salaries and programs
$439,000

Missions & Outreach, incl. Missional Apportionments
Always **10%** of the operating budget
$316,000

Methodist Conference Administrative Apportionment
$105,000

Campus Development
Capital expenses for growth
$1,800,000

Advent Campus Growth Plan

The foundation of the BEYOND Initiative is the following plan/scope for growth and innovation of the Advent campus:

Priorities

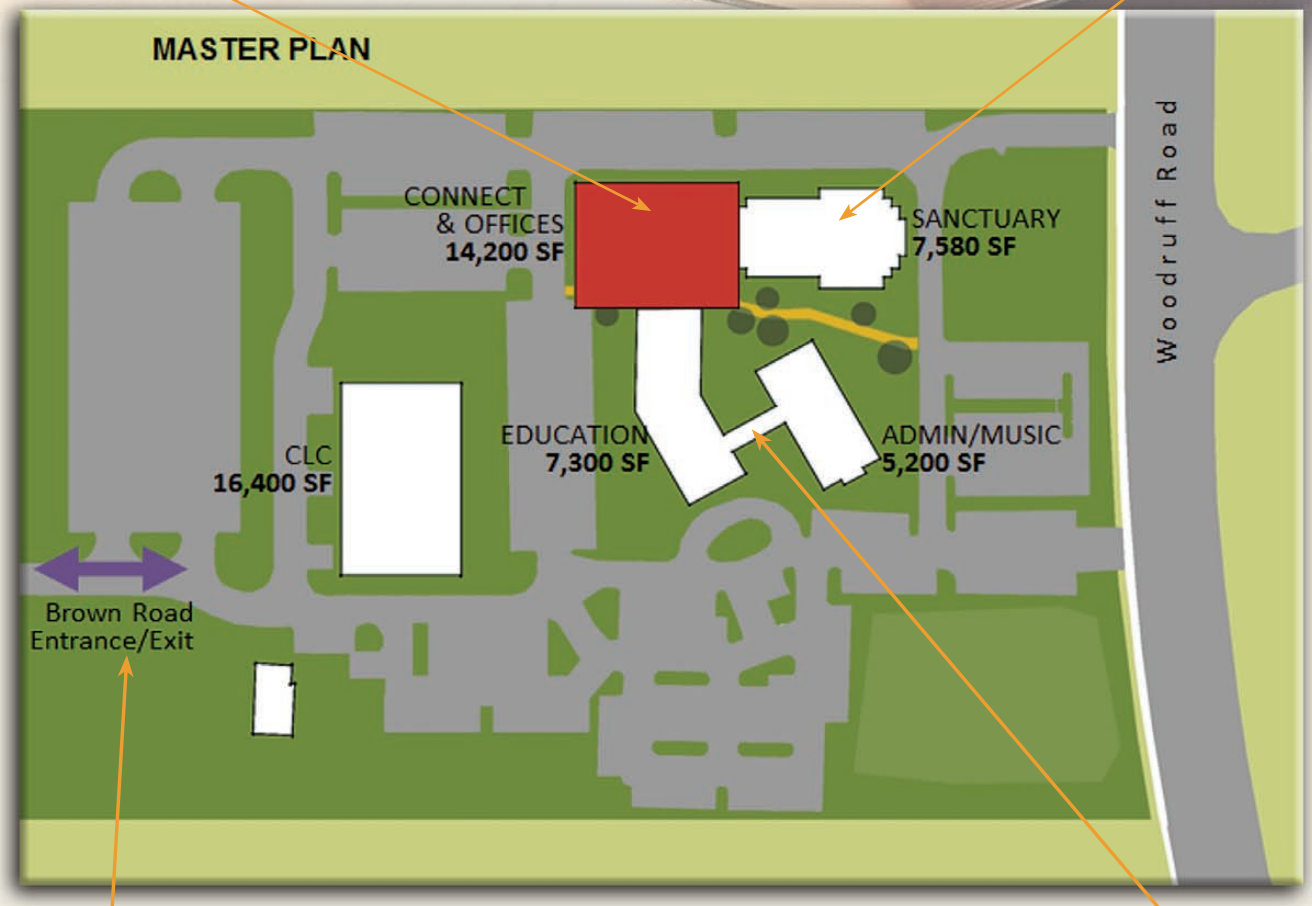
- **Sanctuary Expansion** – The preliminary plan will increase the seating capacity of our existing Sanctuary from approximately 375 to 675. In addition we will create separate spaces for our contemporary worship band and choir, to better accommodate both styles of Advent worship. These plans will entail removing the existing balcony area, and enlarging and reconfiguring our seating out into the current Narthex area.
- **Advent CONNECT Building** – Constructing a new 14,000 square foot CONNECT building on the lawn area in the front of the current Sanctuary that would connect the sanctuary with the existing Education building. The new building would include the following:
  - **Connecting space and atrium** – A new connection space outside the Sanctuary entrance would provide for an indoor gathering space for after-worship fellowship and discussion, AND coffee! It would also provide a critical welcoming area for visitors to Advent!
  - **Choir rehearsal, robing space and music ministry offices**
  - **New restrooms, cry and AV rooms**
  - **New office space for staff** – The 2nd floor would be dedicated to newly expanded and collaborative office and conference workspace for the Advent staff.
  - **Upper parking lot entrance with grand staircase and elevators**
- **Education Wing Refurbishment** – Create an invigorating and energized Children's Ministry space by completely reconfiguring the existing space to better meet the needs of our children and young families. This will include more accessible nursery and childcare that is inviting to our members and visitors. The existing music suite would be converted into a children's worship center.
- **Brown Road Access** – A new ingress and egress from Brown Road would be constructed, in partnership with Hope Academy, as they begin construction of their 12,000-square-foot new campus building and parking lot on the land behind our existing Advent CLC building.

Timing & Cost Estimates

$4.2 million - Initial construction to begin in mid to late 2016, with completion by end of 2017 or early 2018.

ADVENT CONNECT AND OFFICES

EXPAND OUR SANCTUARY

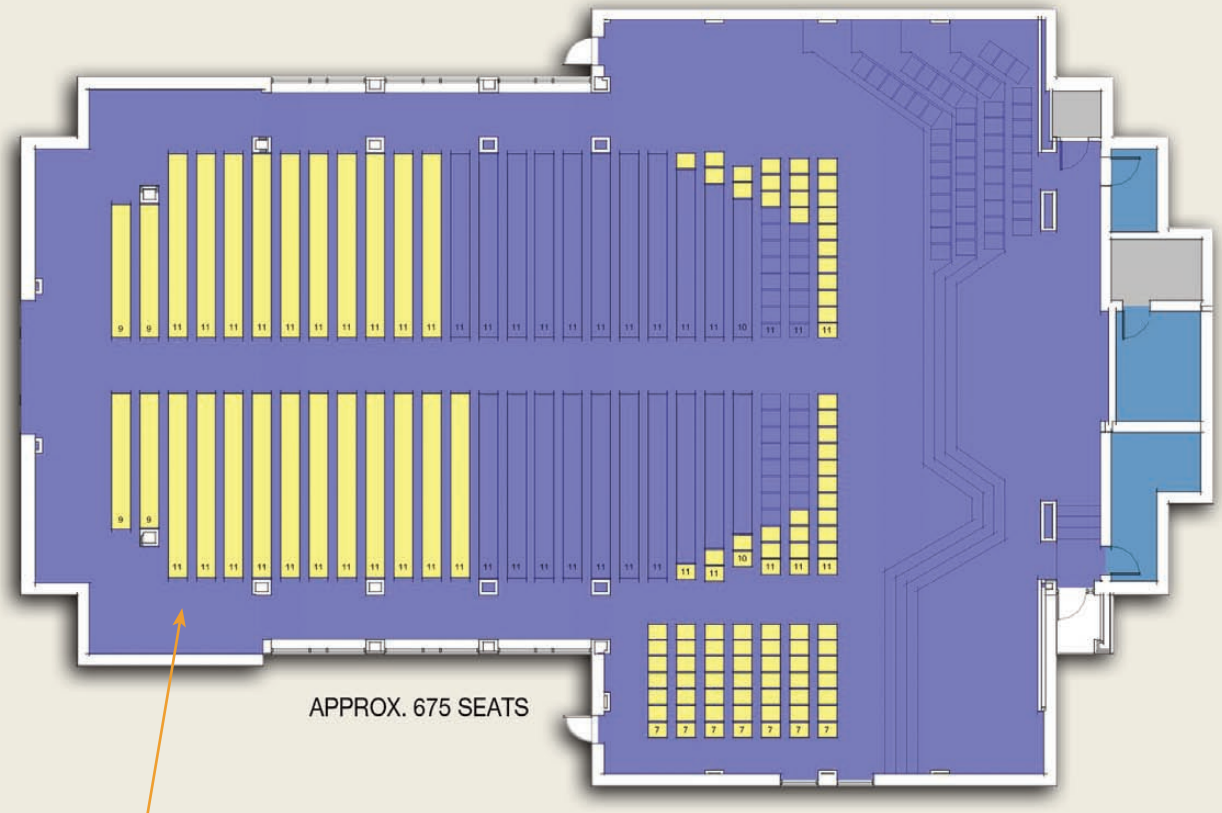


NEW BROWN RD. ACCESS

Growing A Vibrant Advent Campus

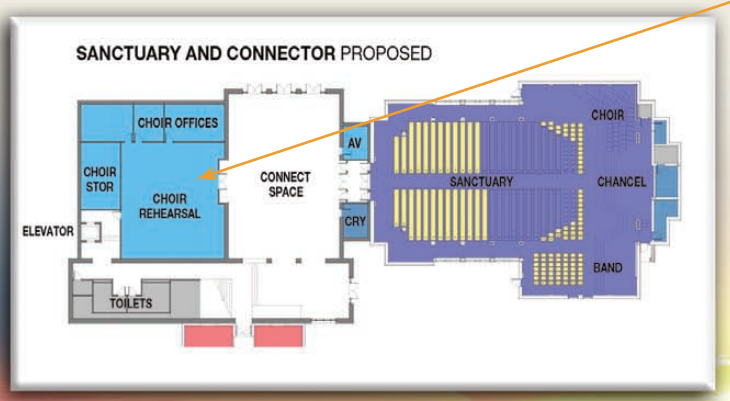
RE-CREATING & EXPANDING OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AREA

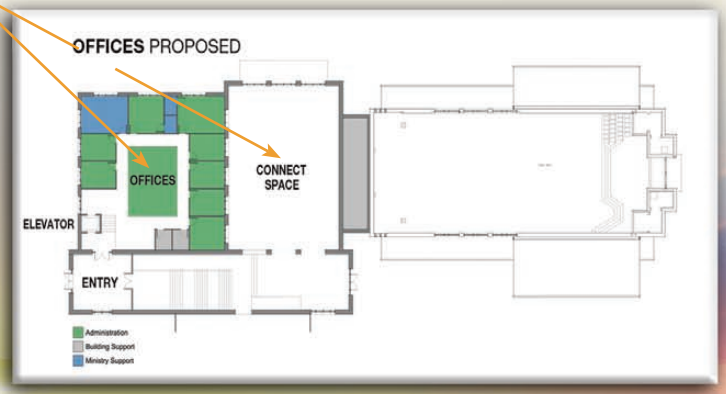
Advent CONNECT and Sanctuary Expansion



Critical points of campus growth plan:

1) Almost doubling of sanctuary seating capacity
2) Creation of indoor CONNECT space adjacent to Sanctuary
3) New addition will also house new staff office space on second floor
4) New music suite and practice areas will free up space in existing office/education wing for increased children's education space





Phase 1
BEYOND Financial Plan

Funding

Phase 1 Cost Estimate funded by Construction loan:	$4.2 million
Advent Debt balance on 6/30/16:	$1.6 million
Initial Financing required at construction:	**$5.8 million**

Key Notes to Consider

- Our current outstanding debt will be paid down to approximately $1.6 million by June 2016.
- With funds raised via the Beyond Fund over the next two years, we estimate being able to reduce our final post-construction term loan needs to approximately **$4.5 million**, if not less.

Debt Service	Monthly	Annual
Debt service assumption ($4.5 million):	$26,000	$312,000
Current debt service:	$16,500	$198,000
Additional monthly/annual requirement:	$ 9,500	$114,000

BEYOND Commitment Worksheet _ section 1 of 4

Where Do I Stand?

The truth of Isaiah 55, John 3:16, and Romans 8:32 is convicting. Take a moment to read. In response to God's lavish gift to us, do you find yourself naturally growing in generosity?

The essence of a disciple's generosity is to route our resources to God-glorifying ends. This can be seen in providing for our families, being hospitable to others, and by partnering with one another and the church.

The church's mission and ministry in the world is tied to the generosity of individual disciples. God uses temporary and ordinary means to fulfill His eternal and extraordinary ends, and He invites us to be a part of that! Take a moment now to assess your current level of financial generosity by using the guide below:

Personal Income #1 (2015)	$	
Personal Income #2 (2015) +	$	
Total Household Income =	$	A
Total financial support given to Advent UMC in 2015:	$	B

*Not sure? Email **dave@advent-UMC.org** or call **(864) 288-8217** for giving records.*

I gave this percentage of my income to Advent UMC	$	C

To calculate, divide amount in Box B by the amount in Box A. Move the decimal two places. Ex: A result of ".084" would equal 8.4%.

What's My Next Step?

On behalf of the congregation of Advent, we offer you a sincere "THANK YOU!" Your contributions allow us to continue to minister to you and others across our community and the world.

Trusting God to provide for your needs can be challenging, especially because many of us are accustomed to having tangible safeguards we can clearly see. There are other times when we simply trust money more than we trust God. The reality, however, is that God holds the future no matter how much or how little we trust Him. He asks us to trust Him with our very lives [Prov. 3:5-6]. Our finances belong to Him as much as our next breath.

Now that you have a clearer picture of where you stand in your financial generosity, let's move to the next page and take a look at the **Generosity Ladder**.

BEYOND Commitment Worksheet _ section 2 of 4

Generosity Ladder

This tool is designed to help you identify where you are in trusting God with your finances and help you discover what your next step might be. While we are all at different places of trusting God with our finances, we can **all** take a next step. Based on the amount you calculated for **Box C** on the previous page, and your knowledge of your own personal habits, where do you find yourself? Take a moment and answer the question: **"So where am I on the Generosity Ladder?"** (see the left side of the ladder). The next question goes beyond math or any legalistic structure someone might impose: **How much of your income could you cheerfully return to the Lord by investing in gospel ministry?** (2 Cor. 9:7) Take a moment to pray, asking God for a cheerful and generous heart. Referring to the boxes on the right of the ladder, what is the next step for you and/or your family in your faith giving?

- **COURAGEOUS Giver**
  I give 16%+ of my income to Advent UMC
- **EXTRAVAGANT Giver**
  I give 11-15%+ of my income to Advent UMC
- **TITHING Giver**
  I faithfully give 10% of my income to Advent UMC
- **INTENTIONAL Giver**
  I give to Advent UMC but less than 10% of my income
- **OCCASIONAL Giver**
  I give to Advent UMC but not consistently
- **FIRST-TIME Giver**
  I have given to Advent UMC once before

- ☐ I'd like to give 16%+ of my income to Advent UMC
- ☐ I'd like to give 11-15%+ of my income to Advent UMC
- ☐ I'd like to faithfully give 10% of my income to Advent UMC
- ☐ I'd like to give to Advent UMC consistently, but less than 10% of my income
- ☐ I'd like to give to Advent UMC more frequently
- ☐ I'd like to give to Advent UMC for the first time

Using the amount you calculated for your annual household income (A), determine how much you would need to give in order to reach your generosity goal. Calculate one space higher and one space lower than your goal as well.

INTENTIONAL

4% of	A	_____	yearly ÷ 12 =	_____	monthly (D)	**11% of**	A	_____	yearly ÷ 12 =	_____	monthly (D)
6% of	A	_____	yearly ÷ 12 =	_____	monthly (D)	**13% of**	A	_____	yearly ÷ 12 =	_____	monthly (D)
8% of	A	_____	yearly ÷ 12 =	_____	monthly (D)	**15% of**	A	_____	yearly ÷ 12 =	_____	monthly (D)
9% of	A	_____	yearly ÷ 12 =	_____	monthly (D)	**16% of**	A	_____	yearly ÷ 12 =	_____	monthly (D)
TITHING — **10% of**	A	_____	yearly ÷ 12 =	_____	monthly (D)	_____	A	_____	yearly ÷ 12 =	_____	monthly (D)

EXTRAVAGANT

COURAGEOUS

BEYOND Commitment Worksheet _ section 3 of 4

How Do I Get There?

Now that you have an idea of the amount you'd like to give, it's important to make a plan that allows you the freedom to give. Without a plan in place, your good intentions may just remain wishful thinking.

One of the best ways to plan your spending is to develop a monthly budget for your family. Budgeting is a bigger topic than can be handled here, but there are multiple resources online to help with this process.

Your budget reflects your priorities. Does your budget reflect the importance of the God in your life?

How are you planning to give regularly?

- ☐ I am going to give my first and best by automating my giving.
- ☐ I am going to give online.
- ☐ I am going set aside finances to give during the offertory on Sundays.
- ☐ I am going to mail in my giving.

Next, reflect on the ways you spend your money. Some of them may even be kingdom-minded and/or appropriate in light of your income or your giving. As you consider your spending, ask a few questions.

- What do my spending habits reveal about my devotion to God? Am I advancing the gospel through my purchases?
- How does my spending compare to my giving? Who is being exalted in my purchases?
- Is my fear of restricted spending, keeping up with the Joneses, discomfort, boredom, etc., greater than my love for the Lord and His mission?

Are you setting aside money for big-ticket items right now?
Would you consider giving sacrificially to God
by contributing those funds to mission and ministry instead?

Lastly, there may be times throughout the two-year period of the BEYOND Initiative that you'll be able to leverage one-time gifts to increase your giving capacity. Whether it's income tax refunds, annual bonuses, extra-paycheck months, or sale of stock or property, these resources could play a valuable role in helping you fulfill your plan.

Description	Est. Giving Date	Amount
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Total One-Time Gifts = _____ E

BEYOND Commitment Worksheet _ section 4 of 4

Am I Resolved To Go Further?

YOU DID IT! It took some work, but through prayer, study, conversation, consideration, and some number crunching, you've made a great step in committing to be generous. Take a moment now to thank God for His many blessings, and to ask Him to use your commitment for His glory.

Let's put it all together:

Commitment to give monthly:	$	D
*Multiply amount in **D** by 24*		
Over two years, that equals:	$	F
Additional special gifts over the next two years:	$	E
"BEYOND Fund" Total F + E =	$	T

*Divide **T** by 2 (years). Divide result by **A** (annual income)*

My new annual percentage:		%
My old annual percentage:		C

Congratulations! By God's grace, you're using your finances to accomplish our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. You're also partnering with your brothers and sisters in ministry at Advent UMC. It will take all of us working together in Christ's strength to reach our goal; we're glad you joined the initiative!

Your Commitment Card

Be sure to fill out your commitment card and bring it with you to our Commitment Sunday, January 31, 2016.

BEYOND Initiative: $5,000,000

The chart below illustrates the type of financial commitments it will take to make our two-year goal of $5,000,000. Financial gifts to the BEYOND Initiative pledge include all giving to our church.

# of Commitments	Amount of Each	Total Amount	Cumulative Total	Cumulative Total
2	150,000	$300,000	$300,000	2
2	100,000	$200,000	$500,000	4
6	70,000	$420,000	$920,000	10
10	50,000	$500,000	$1,420,000	20
10	40,000	$400,000	$1,820,000	30
20	25,000	$500,000	$2,320,000	50
30	20,000	$600,000	$2,920,000	80
40	10,000	$400,000	$3,320,000	120
50	7,000	$350,000	$3,670,000	170
60	5,000	$300,000	$3,970,000	230
90	4,000	$360,000	$4,330,000	320
120	3,000	$360,000	$4,690,000	440
160	2,000	$320,000	$5,010,000	600

This gift profile guide was developed using our historical giving patterns. While this guide exceeds our goal of $5,000,000, we believe this is reachable and would allow us to accomplish further opportunities that God may place in our path.

Steps In Determining How To Make A Gift:

1. Pray for God's guidance with an open mind
2. Study the Sermons and the Devotionals
3. Develop a tentative list of gifts
4. Consider God's will with continued prayer
5. Review the gift profile guide and find your place
6. Consider taking at least one step up the giving ladder. You will receive a commitment card for the BEYOND initiative by mid-January.
7. Decide to honor God in a generous way
8. Rejoice in finding and following His will
9. Make your commitment cheerfully
10. Follow through as God provides

Frequently Asked Questions

The following are some key questions that you might have regarding this next phase of growth for Advent and the BEYOND Initiative specifically.

1) What is the BEYOND Initiative? How will that change my giving?

The primary goal of the Beyond Initiative is to help all of us in our growth as disciples by stretching us Beyond what we currently do or think is possible. Our hope is that everyone will take their next step in financial giving, fostering personal spiritual growth and expanding our ability as a congregation to make disciples for the transformation of the world.

Unlike traditional "capital campaigns," where churches ask their congregations to pledge their giving only to the capital improvement (buildings, land, etc.) over a period of two years, the BEYOND Initiative is asking all of us to pledge our giving, not only to capital improvements, but to the general operating budget of our church as well.

This new "Beyond Initiative" approach combines the needs of the annual ministry operating budget and the over-and-above giving opportunity of our congregation into one simple, straightforward financial commitment over a shorter period of time.

2) How will this initiative help us go Beyond?

The expanded Sanctuary will create additional seating to welcome new people in our congregation and offer them a spiritual home. The new CONNECT building will facilitate chance encounters and casual discussions that can blossom into community and life-giving relationships. The renovated and expanded children's ministry space will offer children and young parents a "wow" factor to help them get even more excited about growing in faith, and allow for increased security measures. The new staff offices will provide our staff the space and resources they need to do ministry well, and will create spaces for additional staff in the future.

3) When will the BEYOND Initiative begin and end?

This is a two-year ministry plan for 2016 and 2017 that will help us budget, allocate, and spend resources in a manner that helps us further our mission. Our hope is that the initiative will also become part of a life-long commitment to discipleship and growth, particularly in relation to financial generosity.

4) What happens if my life circumstances change: change jobs, move, etc.? May I amend my commitment?

Yes. We are asking for a two-year commitment to help you make a giving plan, but also to help us make ministry plans. However, we understand that life circumstances change. If you are unable to complete your commitment, we will not send "collectors" to call on you. God has been faithful to Advent thus far, and we expect that to continue to be true.

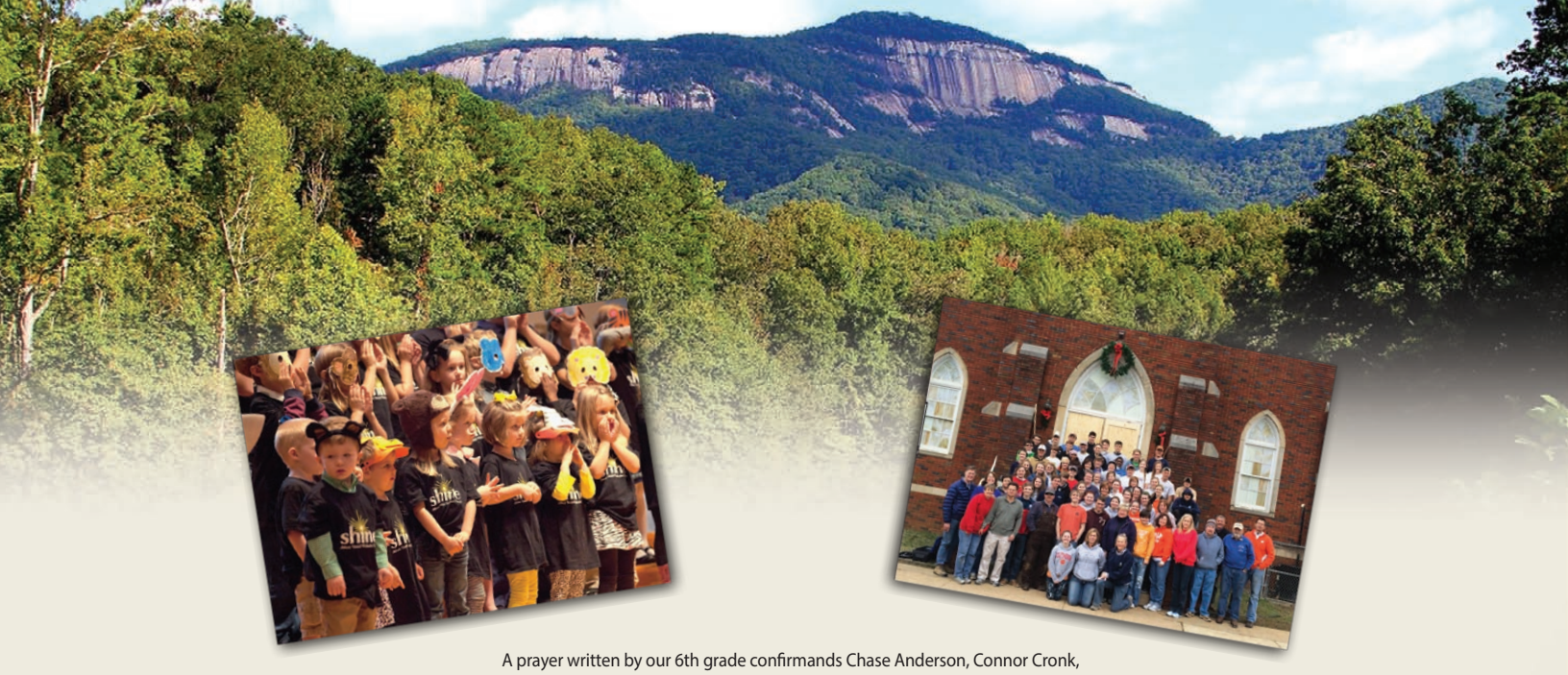
5) Can I automate my giving?

Yes, that is our preferred method of giving. You can set up electronic payments directly to Advent. To do so, please indicate that you would like to give electronically on your Beyond commitment card.

6) There has been some talk about planting satellite congregations. Is that really a part of our plan?

Our Building Committee, working along with design experts, developed a campus master plan that suggests a larger sanctuary. But even a larger sanctuary can't accommodate the thousands of folks around us in need of a spiritual home. So we are in conversation with Greenville District leadership about satellite campuses. Did you know that the last Methodist church start in the Greenville District was Advent?

Now multiply our impact by planting Advent's healthy congregational DNA in other locations through satellite campuses? This is something that is being explored.



A prayer written by our 6th grade confirmands Chase Anderson, Connor Cronk, Campbell Dotson, Joey Lacolla, and Charlie Webb
This captures the essence of the journey that we are embarking on:

Dear Heavenly Father,
Bless us through the growth of this church.
Please provide us assurance for this journey of growth.
We ask for generosity, love, and support from the whole congregation.
Help us in the good times and hard times of this process.
Provide us commitment to Your will to stay on track.
Give our leaders knowledge and smarts to make good financial decisions. Amen

Key Dates

- **All Church Conference:** **Nov 22, 2015**
  Members voted positively on the following:
  - Preliminary building plans
  - Desire to move forward with BEYOND initiative
- **BEYOND Fund Campaign begins:** **Jan 10, 2016**

  Sermon Series
  - BEYOND Me (Mark 10:35-45) **Jan 10, 2016**
  - BEYOND Our Imagination (John 6:1-15) **Jan 17, 2016**
  - BEYOND These Walls (Acts 1:1-11) **Jan 24, 2016**
  - BEYOND Now (Deut.34:1-12) **Jan 31, 2016**
- **BEYOND Fund Commitment Sunday:** **Jan 31, 2016**
- **District Committee on Building & Location Review:** **Date TBD**
- **Advent Charge Conference:** **Date TBD**

Advent
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ADVENT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2258 Woodruff Road | Simpsonville | SC 29681 | (864) 288-8217 | www.advent-umc.org