

Beyond the Steps

OAK LAWN UMC

beyond-the-steps.org

October 2026



Table of **Contents**

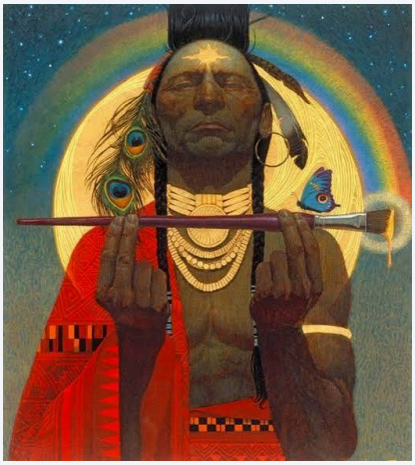
Oak Lawn UMC
Letter from our Senior Pastor | 3
One Board | 4
A Brief History | 6

Beyond the Steps
What We Are Doing | 8
Frequently Asked Questions | 13

Sermon Series
Week 1 | 18
Week 2 | 22
Week 3 | 24
Week 4 | 27
Week 5 | 31

Letter from our **Senior Pastor**





Dear Chosen Family,

Across generations, pathways have led people toward safety, connection, and home. In many Indigenous traditions, the rainbow carries sacred meanings of connection, transformation, balance, and relationship with creation. At Oak Lawn UMC, the rainbow also reminds us of God's expansive love, while the steps remind us that what we build today creates pathways for those who will come after us.

Beyond the Steps is our opportunity to protect that pathway and prepare Oak Lawn UMC for generations to come. This two-year, $3.5 million unified budget campaign will sustain our ministry, strengthen our financial future, and invest in the safety, accessibility, and long-term care of our sacred space. The ask is significant because the future we are investing in is significant.

We have inherited a courageous legacy of radical love, deep belonging, and justice. Now it is our turn to take the next faithful step. I invite you to pray, dream, and discern with us—and to prayerfully consider the gift God is inviting you to make.

May we take this next step together—with faith, courage, and hope.

With love,

Pastor Rachel

Rev. Rachel Griffin-Allison
Senior Pastor

One Board

For 152 years, God has guided Oak Lawn United Methodist Church to transform lives, deepen faith, and serve our community and the broader world. Over the past several years, church leadership has prayed, listened, researched, and planned for a strong and vibrant future.

Beyond the Steps is our path forward—preserving our church's legacy while growing our ministries and outreach. This two-year campaign has a goal of $3.5 million and three primary objectives:

- Install the required fire suppression system throughout our 42,000-square-foot historic building, an essential step before we can build out the third floor and make that space available to organizations that share our outreach goals.
- Support our 2027 and 2028 ministry budgets, sustaining worship, outreach, and ministries that serve our congregation and neighbors.
- Protect and rebuild our savings so they are available for true emergencies and major repairs to our aging electrical, plumbing, gas, HVAC, and other critical systems.

Oak Lawn UMC has no debt and no mortgage. For years, our savings have helped bridge the gap between annual giving and the cost of our ministries. But regularly drawing from those investments is not sustainable. We want to preserve those resources for the unexpected needs that inevitably come with a century-old building.

Beyond the Steps is about more than our building. It is about Christ's call to love God and love our neighbors. Oak Lawn is known for radical love and welcome, and we want our ministries to continue growing and serving for generations to come.

We cannot achieve this vision without you. We ask you to pray for God's guidance, participate in campaign events, and consider how you can generously support this effort. We are excited to take this leap of faith together.

In Christ's love,

Your 2026 Board
Your Beyond the Steps Steering Team



Our **Vision**

Seeking the **loving, just and free world** that **God imagines for all people!**

Our **Mission**

We **amplify God's love** through **radical hospitality**, **serving** our neighbors and **standing up for justice.**

A Brief **History**

A Church Planted - 1874
Oak Lawn United Methodist Church is founded by Marcus Hiram Cullum. Early worship gathers beneath the oak trees, planting a community of worship and care. The "schoolhouse" chapel serves the congregation from September 1874 to 1890. The congregation's second church replaced the "schoolhouse" chapel through 1980.



Building the Church We Know (1913-1915)
Under Pastor C. C. Young, Oak Lawn builds the church home it still occupies today. Completed in 1916, it reflects a season of vision and generosity, including the Cullum family's enduring leadership and success through the growing Tom Thumb grocery business.

Becoming Reconciling (2016)
Oak Lawn United Methodist Church votes to become a Reconciling Congregation, formally affirming its commitment to the full inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in the life and leadership of the church. This marks a meaningful step in an ongoing journey of repentance, healing, and welcome.

RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK



Two Languages, One Church (2018)
Oak Lawn welcomes and integrates the Gracia Viva congregation, becoming a bilingual church. This commitment to grow together across language, culture, and community deepens Oak Lawn's witness of belonging.

A Neighborhood and Church in Transition (1975 - after)
Desegregation and white flight reshape Dallas and the Oak Lawn neighborhood. Many longtime members move farther north, membership declines, and the church increasingly becomes a commuter congregation with an older demographic.

A New Community Finds Its Way Home (late 20th century)
Younger LGBTQ+ people begin finding their way to Oak Lawn, bringing new life and possibility. The journey toward full welcome, belonging, and leadership is slow, requiring the congregation to confront its own barriers.

A Painful Vote (1989)
The congregation votes to bar gay members from leadership. The decision causes deep harm, and about one hundred people leave the church at once—a lasting reminder that faithful welcome must be practiced, not merely promised.

A Visible Welcome at Pride (since 2005)
Oak Lawn deepens its involvement in the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade. Year after year, including through church floats, this joyful public witness celebrates LGBTQ+ belonging and the full lives of all God's children.



Shelter and Solidarity (2018)
Oak Lawn opens its doors as a winter warming shelter for unhoused neighbors. What begins as an urgent response to cold weather becomes a defining ministry of safety, care, and solidarity with unhoused people across Dallas.

A Wider Welcome (2019-2026)
Union Coffee opened on the campus in June 2019. Through repentance, healing, and renewal, Oak Lawn continues to grow into a more diverse community across age, ethnicity, identity, and neighborhood experience—seeking to welcome all of God's children.



What We are Doing



What is Beyond the Steps?

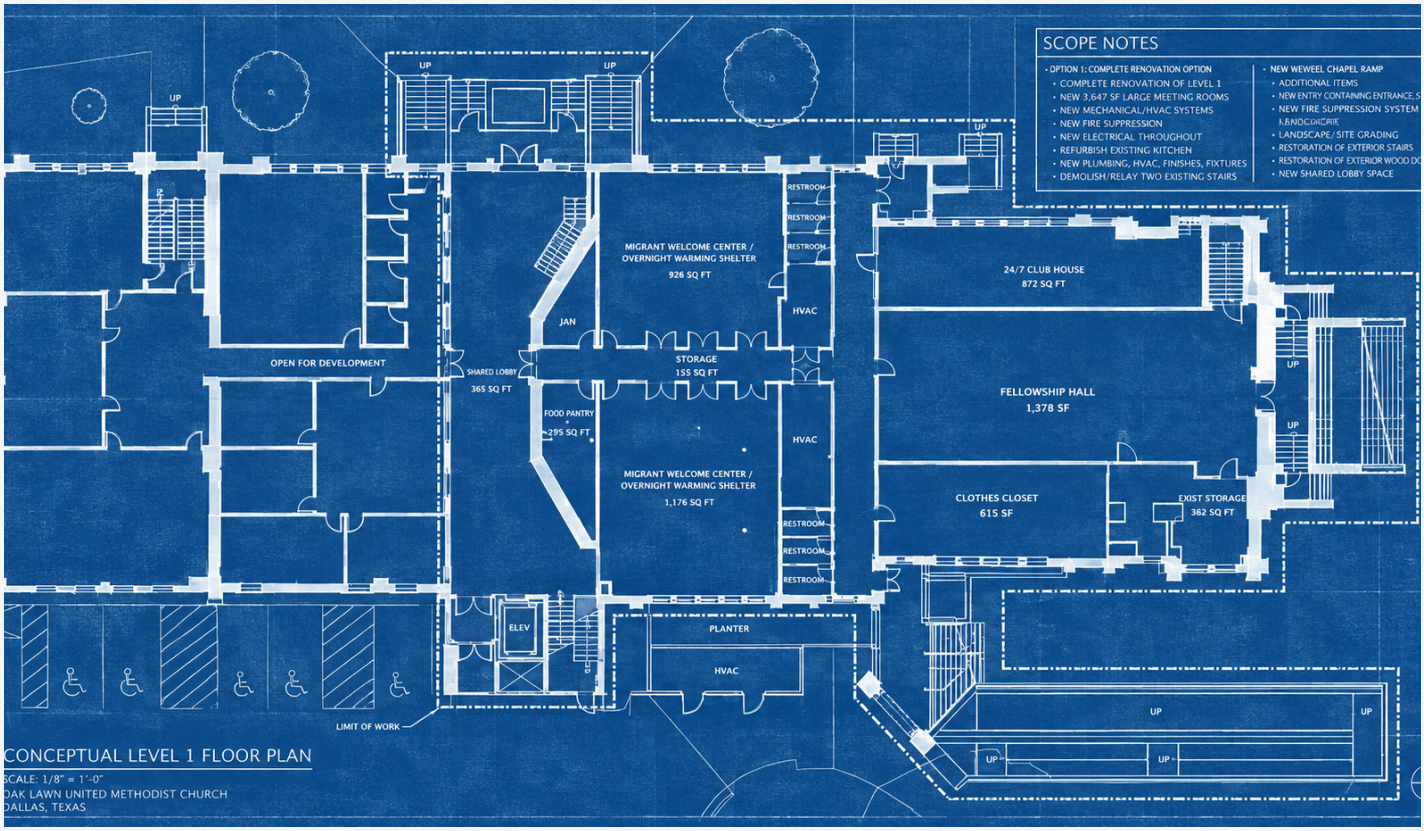
Beyond the Steps is Oak Lawn UMC's two-year unified budget campaign, bringing our ministry, operating, and capital needs together into one shared commitment. Over two years, together we will raise $3.5 million to support two years of the church's ministry and operating expenses while also funding critical capital projects, including fire safety improvements and accessibility to our second floor. Through one unified campaign, Beyond the Steps will strengthen our financial foundation, reduce our dependence on savings, care for our sacred space, and invest boldly in the mission God has entrusted to us.

Why are we doing this?

We believe deeply in the future of Oak Lawn UMC and the ministry God is calling us to share. This initiative will help secure our financial future by moving us away from dependence on our savings, while making critical investments in our building—including fire safety improvements and accessibility to the second floor—so that our sacred space can serve our community for generations to come. Above all, we are doing this to grow God's kin-dom, strengthening Oak Lawn UMC's mission to create belonging, serve our neighbors, stand for justice, and share God's expansive love.

Why now?

Our church's savings have faithfully sustained our ministry, but they are limited, and continued dependence on them is not sustainable. We want Oak Lawn UMC to be here for generations to come. The ask is significant because this moment is significant—an opportunity to strengthen our financial foundation, care for our sacred space, and invest faithfully in our future.



Fire **Safety & Accessibility**

Our more than 150 year old building is more than walls and rooms—it is a sacred space where people worship, find community, receive care, and experience belonging. Beyond the Steps will allow us to make important investments in fire safety, including installing a sprinkler system throughout our historic building and restoring the spaces affected by that work. These improvements will help protect both the people who gather here and the building that generations before us entrusted to our care.

We also believe that belonging must include accessibility. Our aging elevator cannot be our only long-term solution for accessing important parts of our building.

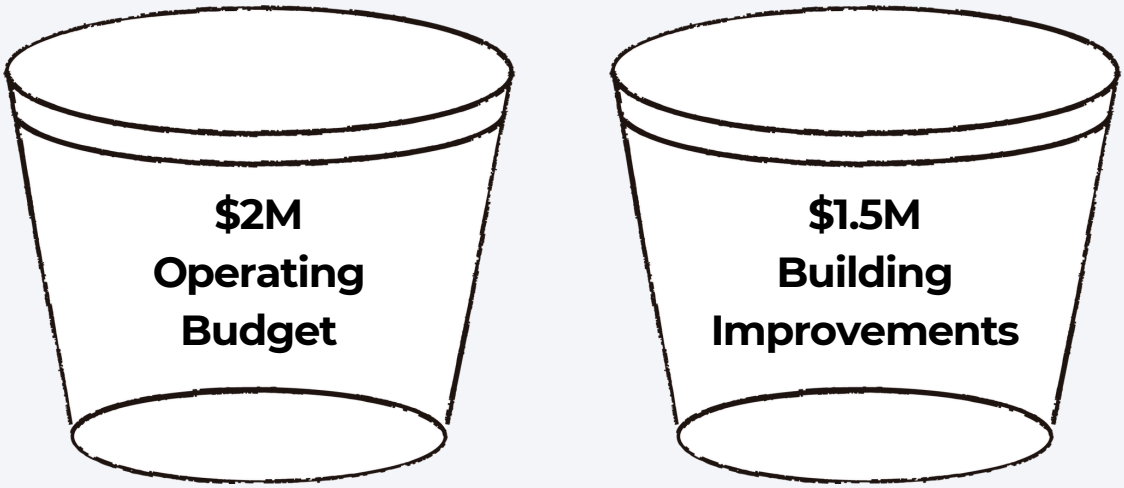
Through this campaign, we will work toward more reliable access to the second floor and add a ramp into the sanctuary, helping ensure that people of all ages and abilities can more fully participate in the life of Oak Lawn UMC.

2027-2028 Financial Goal

The gifts committed during the Beyond the Steps campaign will span a two-year period, bringing together our regular stewardship giving and expanded giving into one shared commitment. Together, these gifts will sustain our ongoing ministries and operations while allowing us to make critical investments in our future, including:

- **Build Financial Sustainability**
- **Improve Fire Safety & Accessibility**
- **Deferred Roof Repair**
- **Cultivate the Kin-dom**

2027-2028 Giving Goal
$3.5 Million



Cultivating the **Kin-dom**

Beyond the Steps is ultimately about more than sustaining a church—it is about cultivating God's kin-dom in Oak Lawn and beyond. Our giving strengthens a community committed to putting God's expansive love into action.

Creating Belonging

We are building a church where people are not simply welcomed but know they belong—across identities, abilities, languages, backgrounds, and life experiences. There is room for everyone at Christ's table.



Serving our Neighbors

We put love into action by responding to the needs around us—feeding people, connecting neighbors with resources, creating community, offering care, and walking alongside people on pathways toward stability and flourishing.



Standing Up for Justice

We believe love calls us beyond the walls of the church. We show up, speak out, and work alongside our neighbors for dignity, inclusion, peace, and justice. Together, we are cultivating the kind of kin-dom Jesus imagined: one where everyone can flourish.



Frequently Asked **Questions**

Don't we have savings?
Yes. Property sales and wise investments have helped Oak Lawn remain debt-free, restore our sanctuary, and cover unexpected building costs. But we've increasingly relied on those savings to fund annual operations. That isn't sustainable. Beyond the Steps helps protect our savings for emergencies and future opportunities.

Why are we doing this now?
For years, church leaders have explored development partnerships, grants, rental income, fundraising, cost reductions, and other strategies. Meanwhile, our ministries have grown and our savings have increasingly supported annual expenses. Now is the time to build a sustainable financial foundation for the ministries God is calling us to continue and grow.

Haven't we had lots of fundraisers?
Yes—and they've made a difference! We'll continue fundraising, pursuing grants, and carefully managing expenses. But these efforts alone cannot fund our ministries and major building needs, including fire suppression and aging plumbing, electrical, HVAC, and elevator systems. Beyond the Steps addresses the bigger, long-term need.

What do you need from me?
First, pray. Then consider what you can commit over the two-year campaign. Your commitment helps us responsibly plan for 2027 and 2028. You can also invite others to support our mission, participate in fundraisers, volunteer, serve, and share ideas. Every commitment and every act of generosity matters.

What will my commitment support?
Your commitment supports two priorities: our ministries and our building. It will help fund two years of ministry and operations while protecting our savings, and help install required fire suppression. That investment also moves us toward using our third floor for ministry partners and potential rental income.

How will this help our community?
Beyond the Steps means more capacity to serve our neighbors—people experiencing homelessness, hunger, addiction, grief, displacement, injustice, and isolation. It strengthens ministries of welcome, care, advocacy, and belonging. Ultimately, this campaign helps us live Christ's call to love God and love our neighbors.

Are we cutting expenses and seeking grants?
Absolutely. We're planning a 30% reduction in our 2027 budget while protecting the ministries at the heart of our mission. We're also dedicating more time than ever to pursuing grants and outside funding for our mission and operations. Beyond the Steps is one part of our broader plan for long-term sustainability.

Doing Your **Part**

Oak Lawn UMC invites each of us to prayerfully consider how we will be part of Beyond the Steps and the future God is calling us to build together.

READ AND ENGAGE
Spend time with the stories, scripture, reflections, and campaign materials provided.

PARTICIPATE
Join us in worship, conversation, and the special gatherings throughout Beyond the Steps.

PRAY
Ask God to guide you as you discern how you are being called to participate.

DISCUSS
Talk about your commitment with your family, chosen family, or others with whom you share life.

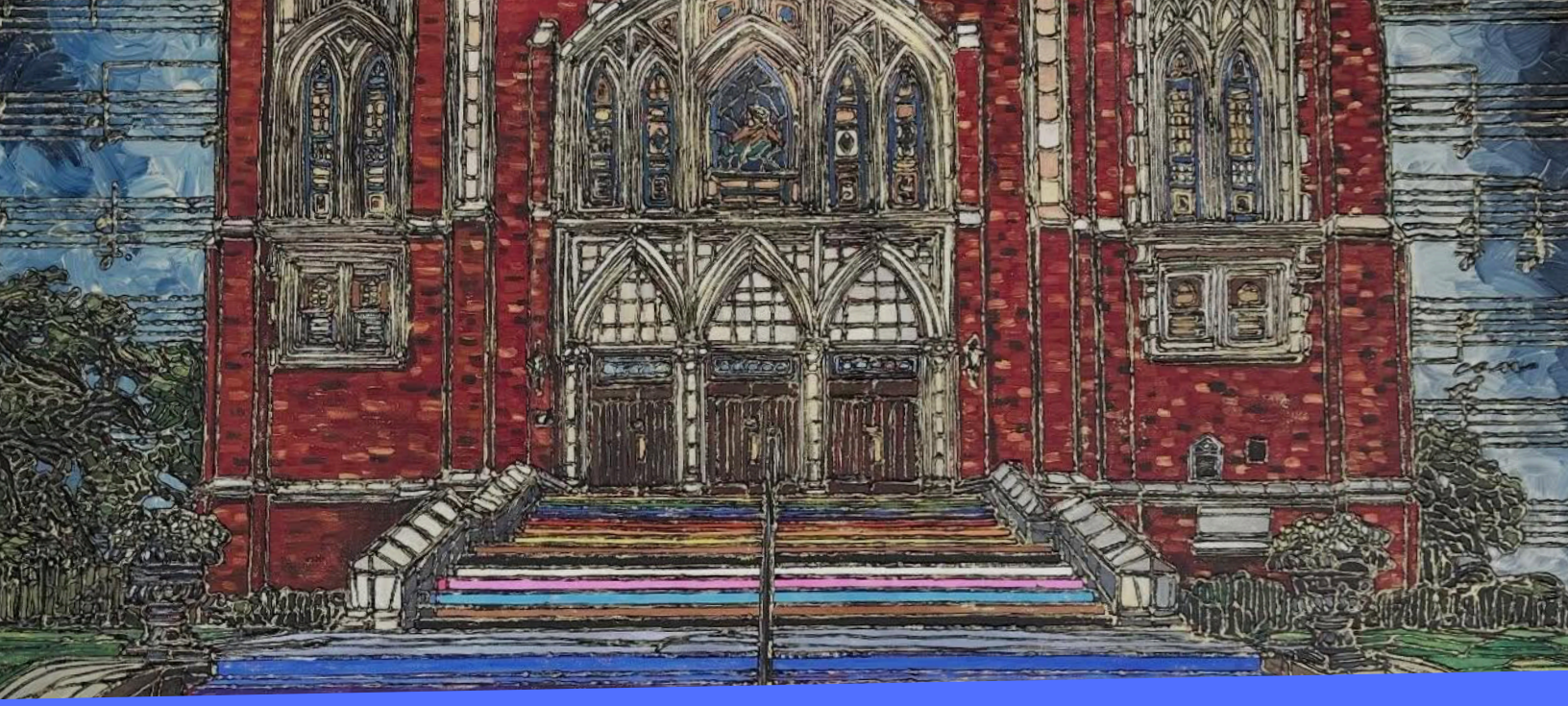
CONSIDER
Prayerfully consider the financial gift you are called to make and what a meaningful commitment might look like over the next two years.
As we move toward Commitment Sunday, everyone who calls Oak Lawn UMC home will be invited to make a financial commitment to Beyond the Steps.

Until then, we need your help sharing the story. **Be an ambassador for Beyond the Steps**—help others understand why we are taking this faithful step together, invite questions, and share the hope we have for Oak Lawn UMC's future.



*"Beyond the Steps is a **radical move forward,** because the future we're called to build requires more than cautious steps. It requires courage."*

L. **Dustin** Newton
OLUMC Finance Chair



Sermon **Series**

We are not simply preserving a building. We are preparing a place where God's love can continue to be amplified, justice can continue to be pursued, and every person can know they belong.

This guide accompanies the Beyond the Steps series. Each day offers scripture, reflection, a question, and a practice. Move at your own pace. The invitation is not to prove your worth, but to notice how God's abundant love may be calling you toward generosity, justice, and shared protection.

A Note About the Pathway

The phrase "pathway of protection" was shared by a congregation member from her Pueblo heritage during the defense of the rainbow steps.

In this guide, the phrase names the congregation's ongoing call to protect people, widen belonging, remove barriers, and sustain justice-facing ministry.

Welcome is a Sacred Promise
Week 1

Weekly scripture: Isaiah 56:3–8
God of wide welcome, make our lives a doorway into belonging.

Day 1
Scripture: Isaiah 56:3–5
The prophet speaks directly to people who feared they had no place in God's house. God's welcome is not earned through conformity. It is a promise that interrupts exclusion. Begin this week by receiving that promise for yourself—and imagining who needs to hear it from the church.

- Reflect: Where have you experienced genuine welcome? Who might still be waiting for it?
- Practice: Notice one place in your daily life where someone could be more clearly welcomed.
- Prayer: Together, we build more than a future. We expand the pathway of protection.

Day 2
Scripture: Psalm 84:1–4
The psalmist delights in God's dwelling place, even imagining birds finding a home near the altar. Sacred space is not only beautiful; it offers shelter. Our buildings and ministries can tell people whether they may rest, participate, and belong.

- Reflect: What makes a space feel safe enough for you to be fully yourself?
- Practice: Give thanks for one place that has sheltered or formed you.
- Prayer: Together, we build more than a future. We expand the pathway of protection.

Day 3
Scripture: Luke 14:12–14
Jesus describes a welcome that does not calculate return. Hospitality is not a strategy for gaining influence; it is a way of honoring the dignity of people often overlooked.

- Reflect: Who is usually expected to offer hospitality, and who is usually expected to receive it?
- Practice: Offer a small act of welcome without expecting anything in return.
- Prayer: Together, we build more than a future. We expand the pathway of protection.

Day 4
Scripture: Romans 15:5–7
To welcome one another as Christ welcomed us is to make room for real people, not idealized versions of them. Welcome includes listening, flexibility, and shared power.

- Reflect: What would it mean for welcome to be more than friendliness?
- Practice: Ask someone what would help them participate more fully in a community you share.
- Prayer: Together, we build more than a future. We expand the pathway of protection.

Day 5
Scripture: 1 John 4:7–12
Love begins in God, not in our ability to get everything right. We can risk opening our lives because love has already found us.

- Reflect: How might receiving God's love change the way you welcome others?
- Practice: Pray for courage to let love become visible through your words and actions.
- Prayer: Together, we build more than a future. We expand the pathway of protection.

Prayer Journal **Week 1**

Carry this week's scripture and refrain with you. Use this page to name what you are noticing, what you are praying, and the generosity or protection to which you feel called.

I am noticing...

I am praying...

One faithful next step...

Spiritual Giving

Giving Is a Spiritual Practice

Giving is more than a financial decision. It is a spiritual practice—one that reflects what we trust, what we value, and how we understand our life together with God. Giving invites us into deeper relationship with God and with one another. When we give, we participate in God's abundance and open ourselves to the grace, possibility, and freedom that come when we loosen our grip on what we have.

A life of giving invites our financial priorities to reflect our spiritual priorities. We give not out of fear, guilt, or obligation, but as a response to the love and grace we have already received. Through prayerful giving, we join God in the work of healing, justice, belonging, and transformation—within our church, throughout our community, and beyond.

Giving can also change us. Deep spiritual giving means giving in ways that shape how we live. It invites us to consider our choices, our priorities, and what "enough" might mean. Sometimes giving means offering more of our financial resources so that others may flourish. Sometimes it means simplifying one part of our lives so we can offer more of ourselves somewhere else.

Ultimately, giving is not simply about what we give away. It is about the people God is forming us to become—people rooted in abundance, connected in community, and committed to sharing God's love with the world.



A JOURNEY OF GENEROSITY

DIFFERENT PATHS. ONE PURPOSE.

At Oak Lawn UMC, giving is a faithful response to God's love—
helping us be a church that welcomes, serves, and advocates for a more just world.



REFLECTION

Where are you on your journey of giving and generosity?

Initial | Consistent | Intentional | Wholehearted | Legacy

I believe God is calling me to increase by generosity by:

Protect What is Precious
Week 2

Weekly scripture: Nehemiah 2:11–18
God of courage, show us what needs care and give us companions for the work.

Day 1
Scripture: Nehemiah 2:11–13
Before Nehemiah speaks, he looks carefully at what is broken. Honest attention is a spiritual practice. It resists both despair and denial.

- Reflect: What needs your truthful attention today?
- Practice: Spend ten quiet minutes noticing what you usually hurry past.
- Prayer: Together, we build more than a future. We expand the pathway of protection.

Day 2
Scripture: Nehemiah 2:17–18
Rebuilding begins when a community names both the need and its capacity to respond. The work belongs to many hands.

- Reflect: What gifts, skills, or resources have been entrusted to you for the common good?
- Practice: Write down one way you can participate in repair this season.
- Prayer: Together, we build more than a future. We expand the pathway of protection.

Day 3
Scripture: Micah 6:6–8
God's desire is not extravagant display but justice, kindness, and humble companionship. Generosity is meaningful when it strengthens these commitments.

- Reflect: How can your giving reflect justice and kindness?
- Practice: Choose one justice-facing ministry to learn more about.
- Prayer: Together, we build more than a future. We expand the pathway of protection.

Day 4
Scripture: Proverbs 31:8–9
Protection includes using our voices for people whose needs are ignored or dismissed. Advocacy is one form of generosity.

- Reflect: Whose safety or dignity needs public attention in your community?
- Practice: Contact, support, or pray for an organization working for that community.
- Prayer: Together, we build more than a future. We expand the pathway of protection.

Day 5
Scripture: Psalm 127:1–2
We build and labor, but we are not asked to carry the future alone. Trust frees us from frantic scarcity and helps us act faithfully.

- Reflect: Where do you feel pressure to carry more than is yours to carry?
- Practice: Practice rest, and entrust one concern to God in prayer.
- Prayer: Together, we build more than a future. We expand the pathway of protection.

Prayer Journal **Week 2**

Carry this week's scripture and refrain with you. Use this page to name what you are noticing, what you are praying, and the generosity or protection to which you feel called.

I am noticing...

I am praying...

One faithful next step...

Making A Way for Every Body
Week 3

Weekly scripture: Mark 2:1–12
God of embodied love, teach us to remove barriers and honor every body.

Day 1
Scripture: Mark 2:1–5
The friends refuse to let a crowded doorway have the final word. Their faith becomes practical, creative care.

- Reflect: What barrier do you notice that others may encounter every day?
- Practice: Ask, “What would make this more accessible?” and listen to the answer.
- Prayer: Together, we build more than a future. We expand the pathway of protection.

Day 2
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12–26
The body of Christ needs every member. Difference is not a problem to overcome; it is part of the community’s wholeness.

- Reflect: Whose gifts are often underestimated or overlooked?
- Practice: Name and celebrate a gift someone brings to your community.
- Prayer: Together, we build more than a future. We expand the pathway of protection.

Day 3
Scripture: Luke 13:10–17
Jesus sees a woman whose body has been burdened and challenges a system that values rules over her freedom. Accessibility is bound up with liberation.

- Reflect: What systems place unnecessary burdens on people?
- Practice: Notice an assumption you make about whose body is “normal,” capable, or expected.
- Prayer: Together, we build more than a future. We expand the pathway of protection.

Day 4
Scripture: Galatians 3:26–28
In Christ, inherited categories cannot determine who belongs. This promise asks us to examine the barriers we still maintain.

- Reflect: Where does your community need to move from stated inclusion to lived inclusion?
- Practice: Commit one act of learning from disabled advocates or neighbors.
- Prayer: Together, we build more than a future. We expand the pathway of protection.

Day 5
Scripture: Psalm 139:13–18
Every body is known and held in God's care. This is not a call to sentimentalize pain, but to honor each person's full humanity.

- Reflect: What helps you receive your own body with gentleness?
- Practice: Offer a prayer of gratitude for the bodies that carry your community.
- Prayer: Together, we build more than a future. We expand the pathway of protection.

Prayer Journal **Week 3**

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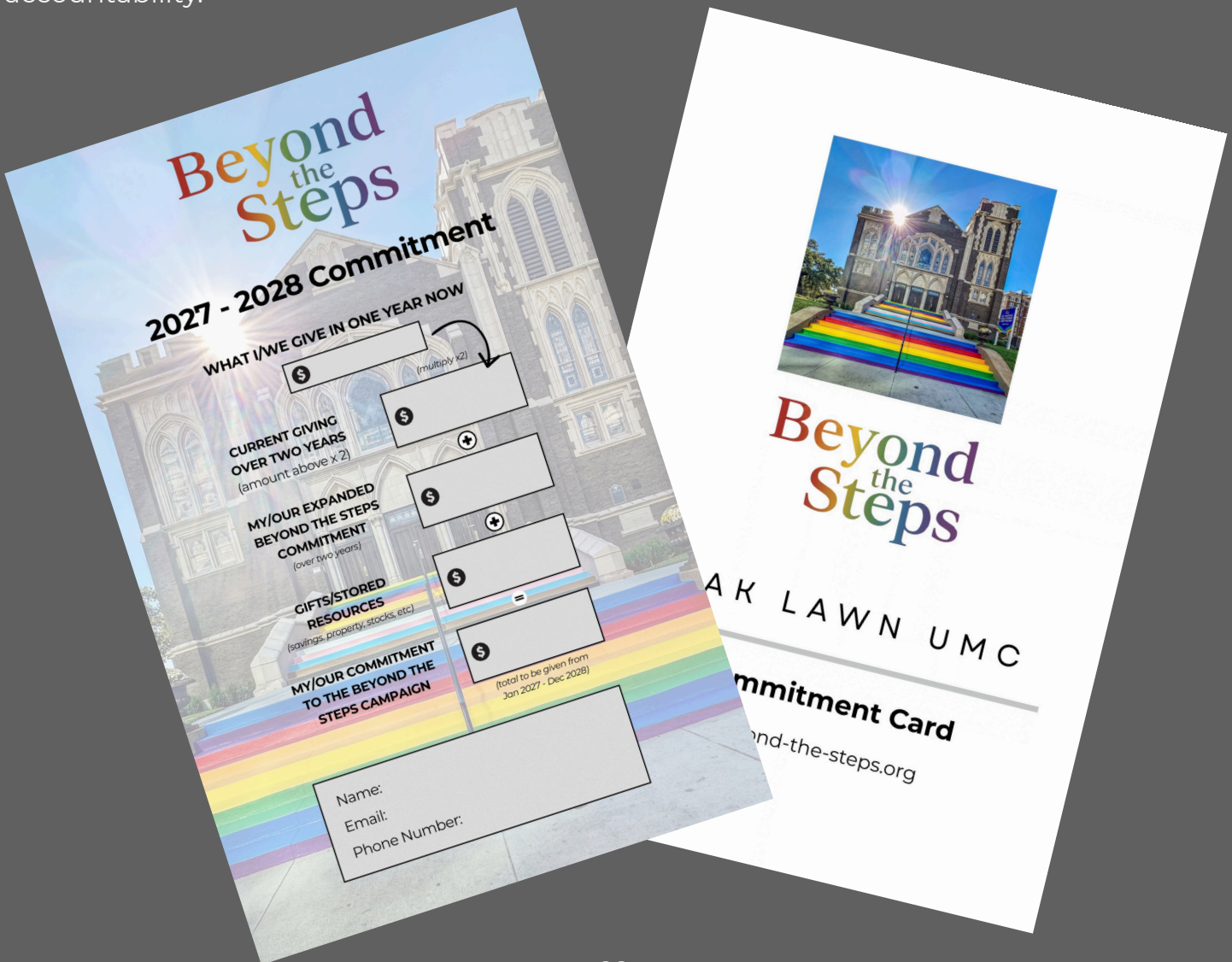
The Value of **Commitment**

One of the goals for this initiative is 100 percent participation from every individual and family calling Oak Lawn UMC home. **We encourage you to prayerfully consider completing a commitment card for this initiative.**

Completing a commitment card—

- Provides an opportunity for personal and family reflection
- Communicates the importance of giving relative to other financial decisions
- Provides advance information that enables leaders to make wise financial decisions
- Motivates a specific increase in giving
- Provides a specific timeline for decision
- Requires a decision over delay, action over avoidance

Individuals and families that write down a specific goal are much more likely to reach their goal because a written record provides a mechanism for accountability.



Generosity That Reaches Beyond Us
Week 4

Weekly scripture: 2 Corinthians 8:1–15
God of abundance, free us from fear and make our sharing a source of life.

Day 1
Scripture: 2 Corinthians 8:1–7
Paul speaks of generosity as grace at work in a community. Giving is not a competition or a test; it is one way love becomes tangible.

- Reflect: What has been given to you that you did not earn?
- Practice: List five gifts—material, relational, or spiritual—for which you are grateful.
- Prayer: Together, we build more than a future. We expand the pathway of protection.

Day 2
Scripture: 2 Corinthians 8:13–15
The goal is not that some are burdened while others are eased, but that there may be enough. This is a vision of mutual flourishing.

- Reflect: What would “enough” look like in your community?
- Practice: Share food, money, time, or attention in one concrete way today.
- Prayer: Together, we build more than a future. We expand the pathway of protection.

Day 3
Scripture: Matthew 25:35–40
Jesus locates himself with people who hunger, thirst, need shelter, are strangers, or are imprisoned. Compassion is encounter with Christ.

- Reflect: Whose needs are easiest for you to overlook?
- Practice: Support a local ministry that provides food, clothing, shelter, or accompaniment.
- Prayer: Together, we build more than a future. We expand the pathway of protection.

Day 4
Scripture: Deuteronomy 15:7–11
The command not to harden one’s heart calls us beyond individual charity toward a responsive, open-handed life.

- Reflect: What fears make it difficult to be generous?
- Practice: Pray honestly about one fear of scarcity, then choose a small open-handed practice.
- Prayer: Together, we build more than a future. We expand the pathway of protection.

Day 5
Scripture: Acts 4:32–35
The early church shared resources so that no one among them was in need. Their witness was communal, concrete, and public.

- Reflect: How might your congregation's shared resources bear witness to God's love?
- Practice: Imagine one future story of protection your generosity could help make possible.
- Prayer: Together, we build more than a future. We expand the pathway of protection.

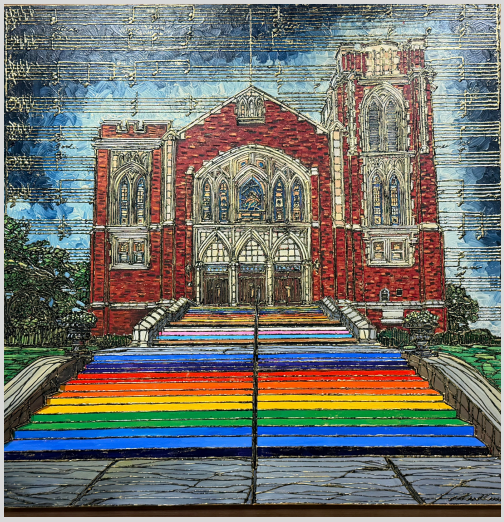
Prayer Journal **Week 4**

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I am praying…

One faithful next step…



Two Year **Giving Chart**

The challenge before us is significant, but this gift profile shows one way we can reach our Beyond the Steps goal—together. Every commitment, at every level, makes a difference.

As you consider your commitment to the Beyond the Steps campaign, we invite you to pray about taking one step beyond what you first imagined. Only you know what is possible. In the coming days, open your heart to where God may be leading and let that prayer shape your response.

Goal: $3.5M over 2 years

# of givers needed to meet goal	2 year total giving	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
1	$1,000,000	$500,000	$41,667	$9,615
1	$500,000	$250,000	$20,833	$4,808
1	$250,000	$125,000	$10,417	$2,404
3	$100,000	$50,000	$4,167	$962
3	$75,000	$37,500	$3,125	$721
5	$50,000	$25,000	$2,083	$481
7	$36,000	$18,000	$1,500	$346
9	$24,000	$12,000	$1,000	$231
10	$18,000	$9,000	$750	$173
12	$12,000	$6,000	$500	$115
15	$6,000	$3,000	$250	$58
20	$2,400	$1,200	$100	$23
25	$1,200	$600	$50	$12
25	$600	$300	$25	$6
13	$240	$120	$10	$2
OTHER GIFTS	UNDER $240	UNDER $120	UNDER $10	UNDER $2



Other Ways to Give

1**. Priority Budgeting**
You may choose to rearrange your priorities and give up something in your current budget in order to grow in your giving. Priority budgeting may mean postponing a planned expenditure, such as a new car, vacation, home remodel, or other major purchase. The ask is this significant.

2. Appreciated Assets
Many people own assets that have achieved tremendous unrealized gains in value over the years. If these assets are sold, a significant portion of the proceeds could be lost to taxation. Gifts of appreciated assets—typically investment securities or real estate—can be advantageous to both the giver and Oak Lawn UMC.

3. Investments and IRA Contributions
You may be able to make a gift of stocks, bonds, and other investment accounts to take advantage of certain tax code provisions. If you are 70½ or older and have an IRA, other tax incentives may apply. Please contact your financial planner or accountant to learn more about these types of gifts.

4. Giving from Stored Resources
Automobiles, motorcycles, art, jewelry, coin collections, and other valuable assets could be sold to offer more creative ways for people to give over and above their normal giving through Oak Lawn UMC.

A Future We Build Together
Week 5

Weekly scripture: Ephesians 3:14–21
God whose love exceeds imagination, guide our commitments toward courage, joy, and justice.

Day 1
Scripture: Ephesians 3:14–19
Paul prays that people may be rooted and grounded in love. Generosity that endures grows from this deep root, not from urgency alone.

- Reflect: What helps you stay rooted in love when the world feels uncertain?
- Practice: Spend time in silent prayer, asking to be grounded in love.
- Prayer: Together, we build more than a future. We expand the pathway of protection.

Day 2
Scripture: Ephesians 3:20–21
God's possibilities exceed what we can ask or imagine, yet they take shape through communities willing to participate.

- Reflect: What hopeful future do you imagine for this congregation and its neighbors?
- Practice: Write a brief blessing for a person who will enter this church years from now.
- Prayer: Together, we build more than a future. We expand the pathway of protection.

Day 3
Scripture: Jeremiah 29:4–7
Seek the well-being of the place where you live. The flourishing of a community is never isolated from the flourishing of its neighbors.

- Reflect: What does your neighborhood most need to flourish?
- Practice: Offer one prayer for your neighborhood and one practical act of care.
- Prayer: Together, we build more than a future. We expand the pathway of protection.

Day 4
Scripture: Luke 21:1–4
Jesus sees a gift that others might overlook. Generosity is not measured by comparison; each person's offering is held within their real circumstances.

- Reflect: What would a faithful, sustainable generosity practice look like for you?
- Practice: Prayerfully consider your commitment without comparison or shame.
- Prayer: Together, we build more than a future. We expand the pathway of protection.

Day 5
Scripture: Philippians 1:3–6
Gratitude remembers that God has been at work among us all along. Commitment Sunday can be an act of thanksgiving for that ongoing work.

- Reflect: For what ministry, person, or moment in this church are you most grateful?
- Practice: Offer your commitment—or your prayer for the campaign—as a response of gratitude and hope.
- Prayer: Together, we build more than a future. We expand the pathway of protection.

Prayer Journal **Week 5**

Carry this week's scripture and refrain with you. Use this page to name what you are noticing, what you are praying, and the generosity or protection to which you feel called.

I am noticing...

I am praying...

One faithful next step...



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