



# A LEGACY OF *worship*

## CASE STATEMENT

*Arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, just as I promised.  
Joshua 1:2-3*

“We believe that Fellowship Church exists for a reason.”

## *Inspired to Worship*

The roots of Fellowship Church can be traced back to the early 1980's, when a handful of people who were meeting for a small bible study sought to plant a church in the Back Mountain. God would eventually make provisions for them, and by 1981 they gathered for what would be the church's first worship service. They had a God-given passion for His Glory, a desire to focus on the worship of God, and a deep commitment to study His Word so they might be equipped to share the Gospel of Christ with their community.

The group soon began to grow, and within three years, the church relocated in order to accommodate the growing congregation. God continued to lead people to the church, and within another three years, by 1987, the church began construction of its very own campus on Hildebrandt Rd in Dallas, PA. Over the next few decades, several more building additions were completed in order to accommodate the growing amount of people that God continued to lead to the church. Eventually, two worship services were needed due to the limited space within the sanctuary. In 2006, the gymnasium was converted into a makeshift worship center, and the two services were consolidated into one so that the people were able to worship God together in community with each other. Now, more than 35 years from the start of Fellowship Church, His Glory remains our passion. And he continues to lead more people to us.

### **OUR MISSION...MAKING DISCIPLES**

We believe that Fellowship Church exists for a reason. And we believe it is a God-given reason. We exist to fully embrace the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to make that good news known to our local community and throughout the world. Our mission is to *pervade the Back Mountain, the Wyoming Valley, and the world with the Gospel by making disciples who make disciples and who display the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ in every phase of their lives.* We are committed to fulfilling our purpose and mission through faith in the power of God's Spirit.

### **OUR VISION IS TO FULFILL OUR PURPOSE SO THAT JESUS IS GLORIFIED.**

We believe that in order to fulfill our mission, God has called us to be a worshipping, growing and serving church.

*As a people in worship,* we place a high value on worshipping God. All that we do as a church flows from our worship of the Lord Jesus

Christ. Through our God-centered worship, we declare the worth of God and his Son Jesus Christ. Each week we gather in passionate corporate worship to grow spiritually through strong biblical teaching.

*As a people in community,* we believe that equipping and making disciples happens best within the context of a true community. While we are all different in countless ways, and our culture is very individualistic, Jesus Christ is our true common unity. We are a growing church as we continuously seek to create opportunities to share life together through community.

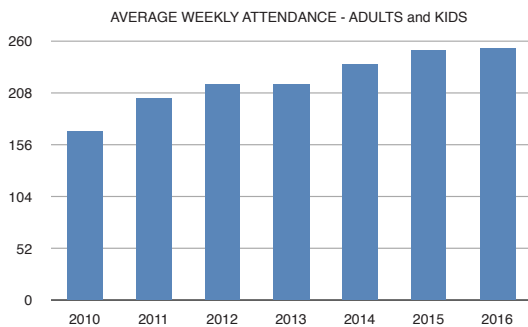
*As a people in service,* we are committed to displaying God's glory through serving others. We serve Christ's church, we serve the community in which we exist, and we serve the world for the glory of God. We diligently seek to help every person find and use their God-given gifts for His glory. We stand behind all the families of our community, believing that

family is the pillar of our society, and well worth the investment.

### A LEGACY OF WORSHIP; WHY THIS CAMPAIGN?

This campaign is dedicated to maximizing our God-given ministry, mission and vision. It's about more people hearing the gospel. It's about the impact Fellowship Church is able to have on our community and the people within our community. It is specifically designed to raise awareness and funds required for our Master Plan.

After more than 35 years in worship and ministry, our church continues to grow. Since 2010, our average weekly attendance has grown from 170 to 253, an increase of 49%. Each year, God continues to lead new families from within our communities to Fellowship. We have experienced consistent annual growth and expect that rate to continue at 6%-8% each year. As we currently convert our gymnasium into a worship center on a weekly basis, the consistent growth has magnified the limitations of our current facilities.



These limitations have created multiple challenges for us to maximize our worship and ministry. As a worshipping community, we strive to give God our best – a God-centered worship service free of distractions, so that our people can focus on the Lord and His truth. While we take great effort to minimize these distractions, as well as logistical and safety issues, we cannot eliminate them altogether.

The reality is, we worship in a gymnasium. This creates multiple challenges, risks and limitations to the type of God-centered worship we desire and He deserves.

First of all, we are very restricted in what we are able to do with our stage area, and it creates limited opportunities with regards to our worship, setup, and the overall worship experience. Secondly, since the gym was not designed to be used as a worship center, there are currently many barriers relative to appropriate storage for items used during worship and/or special services and events. There are stacked chairs stored adjacent to the stage, creating an obstacle. In addition, our soundboard is set up among the congregation. Sound and lighting are also limited in the gym setting.

Another very important reality is that our current facilities limit our ability to grow. God continues to bring new people and families to us, and we desire to accommodate our guests and visitors in a God-honoring way that brings glory to Him. A key detriment to this is the fact that our nursery is located far away from our worship. In fact, it's in another building. This is a major drawback to new parents visiting with us. Our facilities restrict us in many ways with being the community-based church we believe He desires us to be.

In addition to the impact on our worship service, many other aspects of our church ministry are limited by our current facilities as well. Special services and events, at times drawing in excess of 400 people, are not always desired to be held in a gym. Using the gym as a worship center also means that we are not getting its full use as a gym/multi-purpose room for many of our other ministries such as children, youth and community outreach opportunities.

The impact of our current facilities has been carefully analyzed and measured by many

*“Our current facilities limit our ability to grow.”*

*“This ministry campaign is about making investments that will help people come to know Christ and grow into His likeness.”*

people, special committees, and professionals. It is clear that the lack of a dedicated worship center is prohibiting us from fully maximizing all of the current and future ministry opportunities.

This campaign is specifically designed to raise awareness and funds required for our Master Plan. It is dedicated to maximizing our God-given ministry, mission and vision. It's about more people hearing the gospel. It's about the impact Fellowship Church is able to have on our community and the people within our community.

#### **FROM PROJECT JORDAN TO A MASTER PLAN**

This capital campaign has been in the making for quite some time. Its genesis can be traced back to 2011, when the Pastors and Elders assembled a team known as Project Jordan. The group was charged with collecting a great deal of information and data on our church campus and property for the purpose of determining how they were currently being used to fulfill our mission. The intent was to use the information to insure our facilities were being maximized for that purpose, as well as for long-term planning.

Project Jordan was the catalyst to a nearly six year process that has brought us to where we are today. Careful consideration was used to insure that each step along the way reflected a biblical approach. The same holds true for this capital campaign:

- The campaign must be based on a clear vision.
- A strong prayer focus must be maintained throughout the process.
- We must have a commitment from the church leaders.
- Wide participation to encourage equal sacrifice as opposed to equal-size gifts.

With literally years of prayer and diligent work

done by our Pastors, Elders, congregation, and volunteers, as well as the collaborative effort of many appropriate and skilled professionals, we have developed a Master Plan which we wholeheartedly trust has been guided by God.

A tremendous amount of work and prayers have been committed to this project. We believe that God is compelling us to maximize our ministry by constructing a dedicated worship space that is designed to accommodate our current attendance, as well as being equipped for future growth.

We are moving forward with this campaign in faith that a new worship center will eliminate the current barriers and limitations to our worship, ministry and growth. We believe this plan aligns with our God-given mission and vision to be a worshipping, growing and serving church. We also believe that it will provide us with the opportunity and facilities to continue to make disciples of Christ who will display His Glory in their lives and pervade our community and the world with the Gospel.

#### **BEING A PART OF A LEGACY OF WORSHIP**

This ministry campaign is about making investments that will help people come to know Christ and grow into His likeness. It's about making eternal investments. It gives each of us the opportunity to display and participate in Godly sacrifice and giving. It also gives us the opportunity to be a part of God's mission and vision for our church and pervading our community and the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

There are various ways in which you can commit and give to this ministry, including cash gifts from savings and/or salary, gifts of stock, property, whole life insurance policies and mutual stock funds. You are encouraged to pray, and earnestly seek His direction as you carefully consider your commitment to A Legacy of Worship. May God lead you and bless your commitment.