

# Moving Up In Faith

Faith United Methodist Church's  
Capital Campaign to Improve Accessibility

Faith United Methodist Church, Polo, is a recently merged congregation born from two faithful congregations. As a united congregation we are committed to loving, growing and serving in faith in our community and in the world.

Our community is changing. There are challenging social and spiritual needs all around us. Faith UMC has a tremendous opportunity to expand how we love and serve our own local church members and friends as well as the broader community.

As we consider how we are going to grow our vitality as a church community, we need to make sure that our physical space is safe, welcoming, and accessible to everyone.

Faith UMC has recently explored various options and alternative solutions to address accessibility concerns. As a result of this study the trustees recommended and the congregation concurred that installing an elevator is the best long-term solution for our church.

After discussions with four architects and careful consideration of their proposals, the trustees recommended Christopher Fye from CF&A Architecture for this project. Mr. Fye demonstrated the creativity and vision needed to design a cost effective plan to solve Faith's accessibility issues while maintaining the integrity of our church building. An all-church meeting was held July 19, 2015; the congregation voted its approval to proceed with the project to improve the west entrance, create an accessible parking area, and install an elevator.

The project will solve multiple accessibility challenges. The west entrance will be graded to accommodate ease of entry, and additional handicapped parking spaces will be added. This will also allow the three steps and lift inside the entrance to be eliminated. Finally, an elevator will afford everyone the dignity of safe and secure transportation between the sanctuary level and the lower level of the building which houses Fellowship Hall, Sunday School classrooms, and Polo Community Preschool.

When this beautiful church was built in 1958, those members had no idea that it was being built specifically for you and me and the kids who come to Kidz Café, the people who eat at Our Table, or mourners who share a meal after a memorial service. Right now in 2016, it's not easy, and in some cases it's impossible for everyone to go up and down those stairs.

Sometimes it is the small things that make the biggest impact on someone's life. When we take action to make it easy for everyone to enter all areas of our building, we are demonstrating God's love for them, welcoming them into our family and offering them a place at our table.