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**Capital Campaign
Committee**

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Good Morning!

I have been serving on the Funding Our Vision committee for a few months now. My role has been as a co-chair of the Lead Gifts committee and we have incredible news to share. In just a few short months we have received commitments of over 1.1 million dollars! This is the largest capital campaign in the history of this church. And we are still not done.

These commitments reflect the intentions of a minority of our members. I have been privileged to sit down with members of this congregation and talk about their reaction to this funding our vision campaign. I have heard both the enthusiasm for the project and concerns about it.

As I stand before you, I realize that many of you may or may not know me...or my family...or my husband, John. Simply stated, we are not regulars on Sunday morning. But our commitment to this community often occurs outside of the meeting house...in committee meetings, mission trip meetings or simply in prayer at our own home. Our love for this community is more than our connection to the building and that has been some of the concerns that I have heard. We all know that a congregation is more than the bricks and mortar...its more than how the floor plan lays out.

This community of God is about people and connections. Connection to God, connection to each other and connection to our community. And it is about Service...to God, to others and to our community. And with this in mind, John and I have prayed and have recognized God's blessings in our life and decided to make a lead gift to the FOV campaign...because we see this project and the changes in our building as a good thing. We are hoping it will pull people in...so that they can connect with God and each other and also go out and serve others.

Change is hard...and many times we are afraid of losing something precious and important to us.

But this change...to the building will provide a fresher, safer and more welcoming place...right in the center of this beautiful and caring community of Hollis. As new entrances are enhanced, new faces will walk through. Families who have been here for years will be able to access the outdoors in a way that is exciting and new. Classrooms will be more efficient...so children will learn in a quieter environment. Our amazing church administrators will feel safer and more connected to the central square of our hometown. Ultimately, more will feel welcome to join us as we Worship, Learn and Serve.

It's not easy...this process of discerning how we can help to Fund this Vision of this future church. We are asked to give. We are asked to be generous. But many of us are facing financial questions that we simply don't have real answers for...seriously, when is it a good time to give the greatest gift of our lives? When it comes to money, there is always something to save for...or something to worry about. Again, our fears can get the best of us.

I guess the thing is...with this project, with the future of our church...our community...with our own financial futures...I ask that we have Faith. Faith in God...that he will provide. But also faith in each other...that those of us on these committees will do the best we can for the church and for each other. The FOV lead gift committee asks that you pray on this...and that you dig deep and remember that this is simply an opportunity...and invitation...to give the greatest gift of your lifetime. And for those of you who determine that right now is not the right time...please know, that you are always welcome and loved here. We hope that you can support the overall vision with a positive spirit. The joy of generosity does not just come from one's checkbook. It can be found when we are generous with each other...with our kindness, our patience and our positive words. Whatever decision that you make, you are invited to place a wooden figure on this table to show your commitment to being generous in the way that works for you and your family.

As many of you know, there are opportunities to learn more about the Building our Vision project and the FOV campaign at the pre-commitment parties. I am going to my first one today and am so looking forward to connecting with some old friends and new ones too. We have held over a half dozen parties and from what I hear, they are fun, social, no pressure events. There are two today and a few in the next week before our Commitment Sunday on April 14.

And please know that my role in this process has been to ask. So I ask that you pray on this. We have come a long way...1.1 million dollars is a long way. But the distance to our goal is great as well. We can't get to our full goal without your support. We invite you to join us...with God's help...I believe that we can do this!

Holly Babcock