

A white sunburst graphic with multiple rays of varying lengths, positioned behind the word 'Hope' in the title.

Hope Rising

THRIVING COMMUNITIES
IMPACTING THE WORLD
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



This guide belongs to



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Dear Bethany Family,

I want to invite you to join me on a journey of generosity—a journey of growing in our awareness and response to God’s work in our lives. We see it all across our church: people are coming to faith, saying “yes” to Jesus through baptism, generations are worshipping together, and people are finding community and places to use their gifts to serve. The word is going out each week from six locations across our city, and together with our local and global partners, we are part of the new creation God is building. Hope is rising, and we get to be part of it!

Throughout this guidebook, you will find inspiration and information about how we as a church are responding to God’s generosity, leveraging His good work among us like never before. Why Hope Rising? Hope isn’t static. It’s not just a nice feeling or memories of God’s work in the past—it’s always looking ahead, asking: What’s next? What is God doing now? Hope is constantly growing and building, inviting new and better stories for all people.

Over the next five weeks, we are aiming for 100% engagement from our whole community, leaning in and walking together on the generous path God has laid before us. Hope Rising is an opportunity to see Bethany’s bright future and understand how each of us can contribute—not only for ourselves, but for our city, region, and world. Hope Rising is about supporting the people and ministries across our six locations, fostering thriving communities that impact the world for future generations. We will unpack more in the pages ahead, but the time to dream, see, and act is now. Will you join me on this journey?

With hope,

Scott Sund

Scott Sund
Bethany Community Church



**Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ! By
his great mercy, he has given
us a new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of
Jesus Christ from the dead.**

1 PETER 1:3

108 YEARS OF BETHANY

1900

BETHANY BEGAN IN BALLARD AS A
MISSION TO NATIVE AMERICANS

1916

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH FORMS
IN BALLARD

1956

BECOMES NON-DENOMINATIONAL
BETHANY ASSEMBLY

1957

JOHN AND IONE MCCULLOUGH BEGIN
37 YEARS OF MINISTRY AT BETHANY

1960

CHURCH DRAWS MANY STUDENTS
FROM SPU AND UW

1969

MOVES TO THE CURRENT LOCATION
BY GREEN LAKE

1971

NAME CHANGES TO
BETHANY COMMUNITY CHURCH

1980

PURCHASE BUILDING ACROSS THE
STREET; BECOMES CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION BUILDING

1995

RICHARD AND DONNA DAHLSTROM BEGIN
29 YEARS OF MINISTRY AT BETHANY

2005

ATTENDANCE OUTGROWS CHAPEL
BUILDING; CONGREGATION MOBILIZES TO
BUILD A NEW SANCTUARY

2008

NEW SANCTUARY AT
GREEN LAKE





2010

LAUNCH OF BETHANY NORTH AND
BETHANY WEST SEATTLE

2012

2020 VISION SETS THE STAGE FOR
CONGREGATIONS ACROSS THE REGION

2014–15

LAUNCH OF BETHANY NORTHEAST,
EASTSIDE, AND BALLARD

2016

GREEN LAKE CLC CONSTRUCTION
BEGINS;
BETHANY TURNS 100!

2021

SCOTT SUND IS NAMED SENIOR PASTOR.
CONTINUING HIS AND HEATHER'S MINISTRY
AT BETHANY;
A FIRE BURNED THROUGH THE FAMILY
FUN CENTER, WHAT WAS TO BE BETHANY
NORTH'S NEW WORSHIP SPACE



Where are we now?

2024

VISION 2030 LAUNCHES— WE ARE BUILDING A CHURCH THAT IS ENCOUNTERING GOD, CULTIVATING RELATIONSHIPS, AND SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES.



MINISTRY OF RACIAL JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION

300 people participating in racial justice and reconciliation within our church and with our communities through pilgrimages, restorative circles, and learning events.



CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

Nearly **450** children and youth fill our halls with energy and laughter every Sunday!



BETHANY WILDERNESS MINISTRY

929 people experiencing Christ in the outdoors through the Bethany Wilderness Ministry.



BELONG MINISTRIES

Providing support and a place of belonging for **42** foster families, adoptive families, and families of children with disabilities, with **64** kids receiving care and support from volunteer Sunday buddies.



BETHANY CONFERENCES

Thriving Conference engaging more than **35** Seattle-area churches and over **200** people on issues facing teens and tweens.

Relationships Conference supporting nearly **340** people in their relationships.



COMMUNITY MEALS

Our Food Bank distributing approximately **1,053** bags of food, and our Community Meal program serving about **900** people over the last year.



2030 VISION

We are building
a church that is
encountering
God, cultivating
relationships,
and serving our
communities.

WHAT IS HOPE RISING?

One Fund, Two Years, Three Purposes.

Bethany Community Church's Hope Rising Initiative builds on our 108-year legacy of strong biblical teaching and wholehearted dedication to Jesus as God empowers us toward **VISION 2030**: *We are building a church that is encountering God, cultivating relationships, and serving our communities.*

Hope Rising invites us to invest our time, energy, and resources into three key purposes over the next two years. Our goals are to engage the entire congregation in a discipleship journey toward greater generosity, while also providing the financial support needed to achieve Bethany's future through three focuses: **Thriving Communities** in our locations and ministries, **Impacting the World** through expanded mission investments, and serving **Future Generations** with a permanent facility for Bethany North, college and leadership development ministries, and other ministry expansions.

PRIMARY GOAL

100% Engagement

Our primary goal through Hope Rising is that everyone at Bethany at Bethany will engage in this initiative and experience a life-changing encounter with God.

SECONDARY GOAL

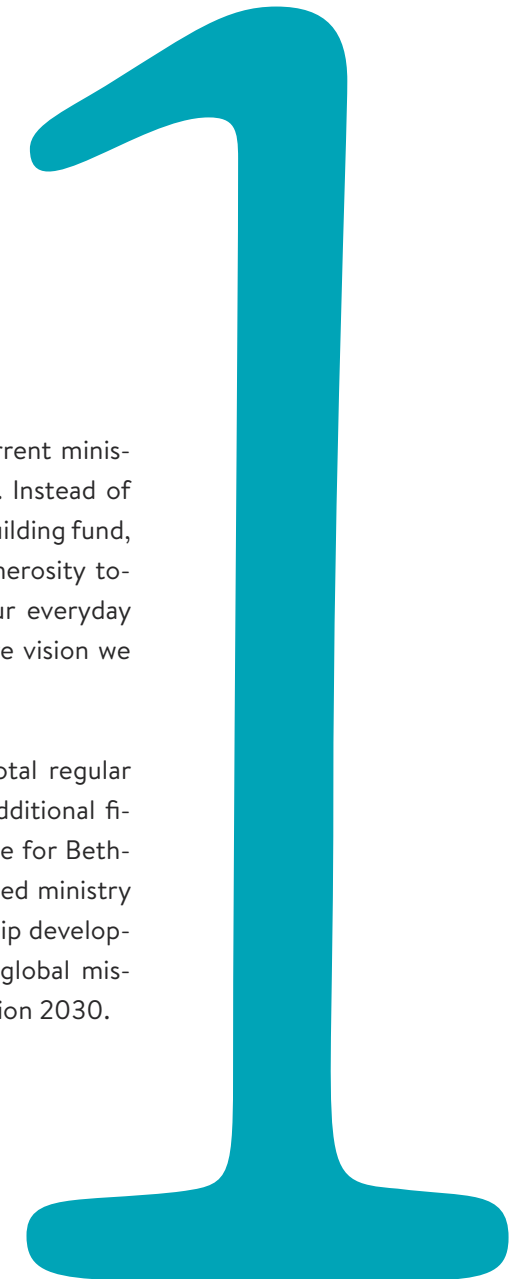
Our secondary goal is financial. If 100% of people at Bethany fully engage, we expect to see an increase in generosity such as we've never experienced before. We desire to unleash greater resources in order to share the Gospel of Jesus in our city, invite all people into mutually transformative relationships, and make a tangible impact in our communities.

Whether you've never given financially to Bethany, are an occasional giver, or have given consistently, there is a next step God is asking each of us to take on this journey.

What is a One Fund Initiative?

This is an initiative that seeks to fund all current ministries along with new projects and ministries. Instead of giving toward multiple funds (general fund, building fund, missions fund, etc.), we will combine all generosity toward **ONE FUND**. This includes fulfilling our everyday ministry (annual budget) as well as the future vision we are moving toward.

So, the dollar amount includes Bethany's total regular expenses for the next two years, plus the additional finances needed to provide a permanent home for Bethany North, along with other new and increased ministry investments: in college ministry and leadership development across locations, expanded local and global missions, All-Bethany Ministries, and funding Vision 2030.

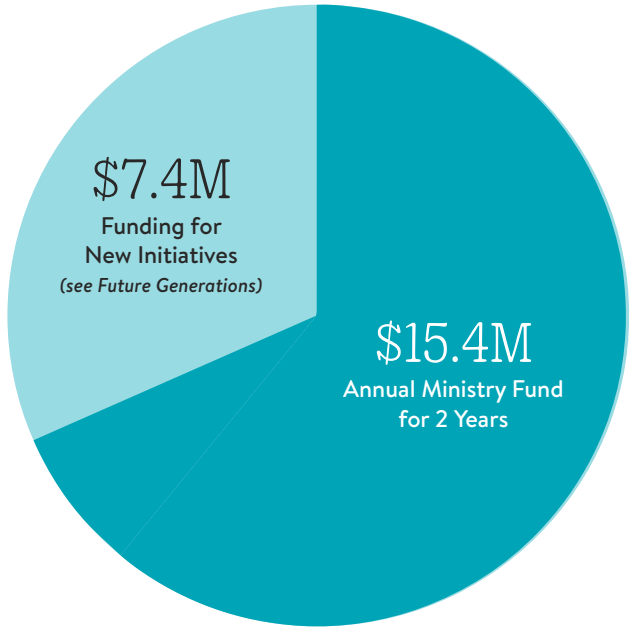




What's the **BIG** picture?

In order to sustain our current level of ministry, our offerings budget is approximately **\$15.4M** over the next two years. This amount funds all our ministries, mission initiatives, and operational needs. However, over the next two years, we hope to raise an additional **\$7.4M**.

The total of **\$22.8M** represents the combined goal of sustaining our current ministries and operations while also expanding our impact and securing the future. The breakdown below details how these funds will be allocated over the next two years through the Hope Rising initiative:



\$22.8M Total
Total Giving Over 2 Years

Thriving Communities

Investing in two years of Bethany's ministry plans across our six locations ensuring robust and sustained ministry impact
→ *page 20*

Impacting the World

Investing in two years of Bethany's local & global partnerships to continue providing long-term solutions and immediate relief for poverty and injustice among the most vulnerable
→ *page 22*

Future Generations

Investing in the future through a permanent home for Bethany North, a college and leadership development program housed at Green Lake, a Bethany-hosted after-school program, and targeted expansions of our All-BCC Ministries
→ *page 24*



Thriving Communities

Let's do the math!

\$7,000,000	Annual Ministry Funding
x 2 years	Years of Hope Rising
\$14,000,000	Thriving Communities



Our general ministry fund is anything but general! We are nurturing a vibrant community of faith where people are growing in their relationship with Christ far beyond Sunday services. This includes our weekend worship gatherings; Children, Youth and Family programming; Belong Ministries; Small Groups; Stephen Ministers; Deacon Care; and local and global missions. These efforts are essential to living out our calling as a church and making a meaningful impact in the lives of our congregants and the world around us.

Through Hope Rising, we will continue to invest in these essential aspects of our church, ensuring that these areas of ministry thrive and grow.

Weekly Worship

Central to our community, our Sunday worship services provide transformative teaching and participatory worship, creating a welcoming space for individuals and families to encounter God and engage in meaningful fellowship.



Children, Youth, & Family Ministry

Bethany's Children, Youth, and Family ministry is a vibrant and vital part of our community, with almost 450 kids in attendance on Sundays across all locations. Programs, including Vacation Bible School, high school retreats, middle school camps, family campouts, and Beyond Malibu backpacking trips for teens, provide opportunities for children and youth to grow in their faith and build lasting relationships. Strengthening these ministries is a core focus of Vision 2030, as we are led by the Holy Spirit to love, inspire, and equip children, youth, and families to follow and be transformed by Christ. Through Hope Rising, we will ensure that our children, youth, and family ministries continue to flourish and expand.

Belong Ministry

Bethany's Belong Ministry is dedicated to supporting families of children with disabilities, foster families, and adoptive families by providing presence, support, respite, and care. Kids with disabilities are paired with a volunteer buddy each week, ensuring that church is accessible and welcoming for individuals of all abilities and that every family feels valued and supported. The ministry also fosters connection through support groups and events that encourage engagement across shared experiences. Through Hope Rising, we aim to expand this ministry to reach even more families throughout our region, ensuring that those often overlooked know they belong and are essential members of the body of Christ.

Empowering Discipleship and Sustainable Growth Across Our Locations

A core value at Bethany has always been to create a place where people can grow in their faith through smaller gatherings. Small groups, classes, and other community-building events make it easier for individuals to both know and be known within our church family. Bethany Community Church is one church with six vibrant locations, five of which have been established in the last 15 years. Through Hope Rising, we are committed to empowering each location to address the unique needs of their neighborhoods, ensuring that these essential aspects of our church thrive and grow. Over the next two years, our ministry funding will prioritize these goals.



Impacting the World

$\$700,000$ Annual Ministry Funding
 $\times$ 2 years Years of Hope Rising
 $\$1,400,000$ Impacting the World



Through new and existing strategic partnerships, we will continue investing in long-term solutions and immediate relief for poverty and injustice globally and locally. As we seek to participate in Christ's mission in the world, Bethany aims to make a tangible difference in some of the world's most pressing issues by focusing on six key areas:

- School Partnerships
- Refugees and Vulnerable Immigrants
- Unhoused Neighbors
- Foster & Adoption
- Creation Stewardship
- Duwamish Tribe & Rainier Valley

Current Local & Global Ministries

LOCALLY, we seek to support vulnerable families and individuals on their journey toward flourishing through the overflowing love of Christ. Each Bethany location is involved in outreach to their specific neighborhoods, hosting activities such as community meals, food bank, blood drives, and support for local schools. Collectively, we support strategic programs with faith-based partner organizations to make an impact across our six focus areas. These initiatives create opportunities for relational engagement between our congregation and those experiencing vulnerability, allowing us to broaden our experience of God's kingdom as we are transformed together by Christ's love.

Among these programs are:

- **Good Neighbor Teams:** Volunteers from Bethany assist in the resettlement of refugee families.
- **Strong Families Ministry:** Volunteers offer short-term respite for children and parental support to families in crisis, helping to prevent family separation.
- **Circles of Care:** This companionship program pairs volunteers with recently re-housed neighbors, providing essential support during their transition and addressing isolation.

These ministries and more seek to leverage the gifts of our congregation and community to experience the fullness of Christ together. We believe we all have a role in Christ's redemptive work in the places of greatest vulnerability in our city and that the Church will shine as light as we step into the story together.

GLOBALLY, we strive to share Christ's love and generosity by partnering with communities in Rwanda, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua. Through collaboration with local churches, we help introduce new farming methods, support community development, and provide family support. These efforts are helping entire communities to thrive. Bethany congregants are actively involved, visiting our global partners each year to learn, work together, and join in the renewal of God's creation.

New Initiatives

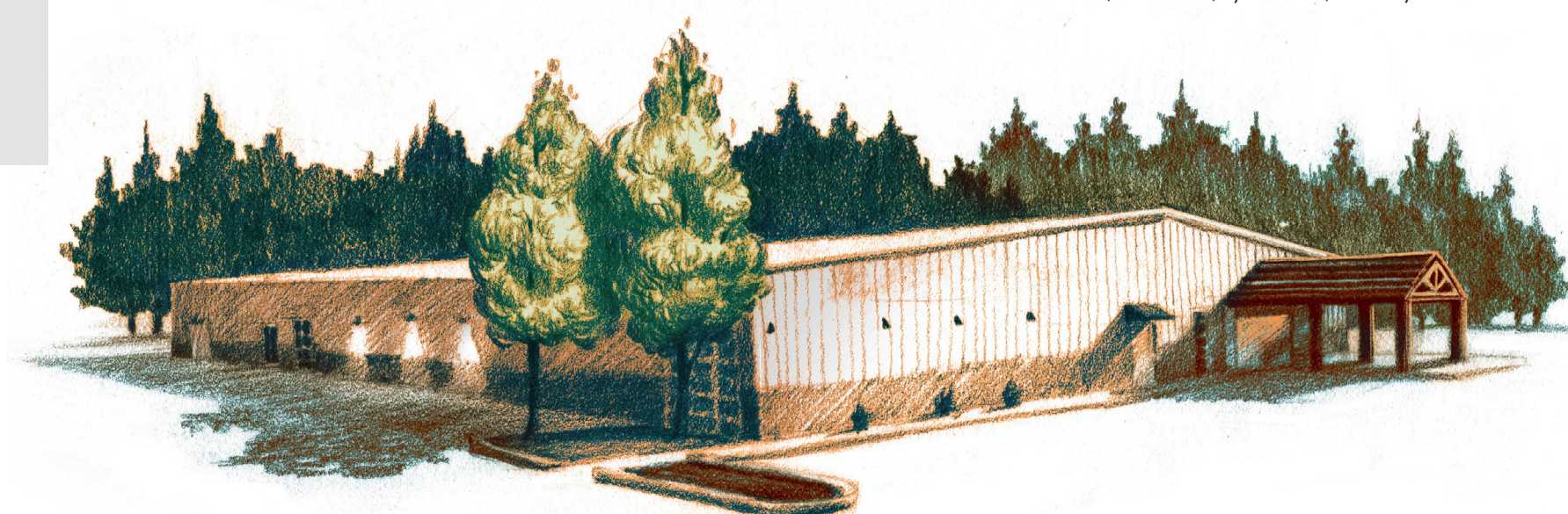
AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM: In partnership with School Connect WA, a new after-school program will operate 5 days a week out of Bethany Green Lake's Community Life Center, supporting unhoused and low-income families of our school partner Daniel Bagley Elementary. The program will support literacy and math skills for students as well as social, emotional, and spiritual development. It will also support parental development through intentional community building and a no-cost solution to child care.

CHURCH EMPOWERMENT IN NORTHERN MEXICO: In partnership with World Relief, Bethany will expand its ministry of hospitality to the stranger to include support for asylum seekers in Northern Mexico. This new partnership in Northern Mexico will empower the local church to intervene on behalf of those who have fled their country of origin but have not yet been resettled.



Future Generations

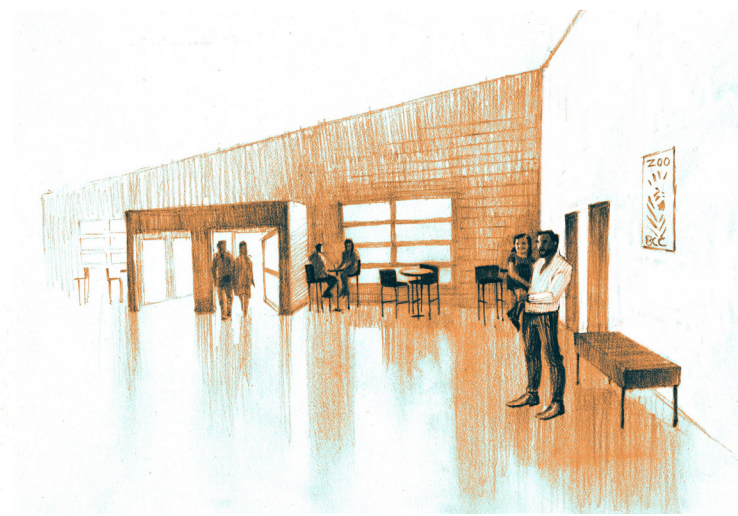
\$3,700,000	Annual Funding
x 2 years	Years of Hope Rising
\$7,400,000	Future Generations



Permanent Home for Bethany North

At the heart of our vision for future generations is a permanent home for Bethany North. This new space will provide a dedicated place for worship, youth gatherings, children and family ministries, offices, and a wide range of community-serving opportunities.

Thanks to the generosity of past capital campaign contributors and the diligent savings Bethany has set aside for capital investments, we already have \$2M to put toward this Bethany North Church Building! We are currently pursuing a specific building and have entered a feasibility study to assess its suitability. While we hope and expect this will become the new home for Bethany North, we are committed to continuing the search if it doesn't work out. Our goal is to secure a location that will serve the communities of Shoreline, Mountlake Terrace, Edmonds, Lynnwood, and beyond.



College and Leadership Development

For nearly 50 years, Bethany has deeply valued engaging with college students and nurturing their lifelong journey with Christ. Many of our current congregants first came to Bethany as students and are now raising their families in our Christ-centered community.

Internships have also played a significant role at Bethany, with several key staff members beginning their vocational ministry journey as interns here. Our vision includes a thriving college ministry and leadership development program based at Green Lake, dedicated to cultivating the growth of future leaders both within and beyond our community. Through these initiatives, we are building a legacy of faith and opportunity for generations to come.

All-Bethany Ministries Expansion

As we look to the future, we are committed to expanding two All-Bethany ministries—Wilderness Ministry and the Ministry of Racial Justice and Reconciliation. These ministries play a crucial role in living out Christ’s love by connecting people to God through nature and advancing biblical justice and reconciliation. Through Hope Rising, we will strengthen these ministries, extending their reach and impact as we move toward Vision 2030.



MINISTRY OF RACIAL JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION: As we follow Jesus together, our lives are shaped by God’s justice and reconciliation. The Holy Spirit is at work, transforming our hearts and healing the brokenness caused by racism in our nation, city, and daily lives. The Ministry of Racial Justice and Reconciliation provides spaces to engage with these issues, bringing diverse people together in unity and calling us toward God’s justice. Through learning opportunities and experiential practices, we explore how God’s justice impacts our hearts, relationships, and neighborhoods.

MRJR offers heritage month celebrations, restorative practices circles, dialogue training, local pilgrimages, BIPOC gatherings, speaker events, discussion groups, and workshops.



WILDERNESS MINISTRY: Since 2000, Bethany’s Wilderness Ministry has facilitated transformative encounters with Christ, community, and creation through volunteer-led outdoor activities. This ministry serves as Bethany’s leading “front door,” offering first-time connections for new congregants through day hikes, trail running trips, backpacking, paddle boarding, stewardship outings, road cycling, urban walks, and more. By investing in staffing, gear, and other resources, we aim to expand this vital outreach, meeting the unique need for connection and spiritual growth in the natural world. Through these efforts, we bring more people to Christ, encourage engagement with creation, and foster a regular rhythm of retreat in the outdoors with Christ.

How Can You Respond?

We are asking you to go on a spiritual journey with God—to take the biggest steps of generosity you’ve ever taken.



PRAY

Pray for awareness of how God is inviting you to respond to God’s generosity in this season. Additionally, pray for our whole Bethany community to respond to God’s presence and movement within Bethany during this time.

My prayer for Bethany is: _____

My prayer for this season is: _____

ENGAGE

Our primary goal is 100% engagement in Hope Rising! Over the next five weeks, stand side by side with people from all locations of Bethany to be available for how God invites us to move. Join in worship each Sunday as we explore holistic generosity together.

I will engage Hope Rising through: _____

(Ex: weekly worship, small group, read and use the guidebook, discussion)

GROW

Hope Rising is an opportunity to grow in holistic generosity as we explore the discipleship themes of worship, justice, family, relationships, and leadership. Use this guidebook for weekly reflection and daily invitations on your own, with those in your home, or with a group using the Hope Rising booklet. Read through this guidebook, and ask God to show you how to grow in your practice of generosity.

God is inviting me to grow by: _____

COMMIT

Hope Rising is a five-week season that we hope will change us for the coming years! Commit to a personal intention of ongoing generosity through worship, justice, family, relationship, and leadership. As we journey together through Hope Rising to invite more people to God, community, and wholeness, join in by taking a step of financial generosity.

I can grow in generosity through Hope Rising by: _____

Generosity Pathway

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE YOU ARE.
IT MATTERS THAT YOU TAKE A NEXT STEP.

INITIAL GIVER

An **INITIAL GIVER** decides to give for the first time out of a response to God's Word about giving. This is someone who decides to give something and trust God and the leaders of the Church with this gift.

CONSISTENT GIVER

A **CONSISTENT GIVER** commits to give something on a regular basis. Consistent Givers start to think of their giving in the same way they think about other budget expenses that are always paid, regardless of seasons of plenty or want. They often set up an online recurring gift to help cement this important habit.

INTENTIONAL GIVER

An **INTENTIONAL GIVER** thinks about giving in relation to other things they spend their money on: "Why do I give the cable company or my cell provider more money than I give to God?" They consider a percentage or amount they want to commit to in order to consciously grow in their generosity. Intentional Givers look at their budget and consider how their giving reflects their view of God and commitment to God's work in the world.

SURRENDERED GIVER

A **SURRENDERED GIVER** realizes the cost Christ paid on the cross for us and is surrendered to honoring God with 100% of their resources as a result. A Surrendered Giver gives in a way that changes them. Their giving governs their spending/saving rather than their spending/saving governing their giving. A Surrendered Giver focuses on how to give more holistically of their resources. They seek to honor God with 100% of what He has given them, whether direct monetary giving or a God-honoring use of an existing resource like a home or a vehicle.

LIFETIME GIVER

A **LIFETIME GIVER** thinks about the long-term effects of generosity rather than month-to-month, or even year-to-year, generosity. A Lifetime Giver makes decisions in the short-term that have longer-term effects as it relates to their generosity capacity. They think of what home they buy, what car they purchase, and how much savings they choose to keep all in relation to their generosity capacity. A Lifetime Giver might be someone who has a lifetime giving goal that governs their larger-ticket decisions. Much like a Surrendered Giver makes a commitment that governs monthly and annual decisions, a Lifetime Giver makes a lifetime or longer-term giving commitments that govern larger-item purchases like homes, cars, investments, vacations, etc.



Creative Ways to Give More Generously

Generosity Initiatives like Hope Rising are successful when everyone who calls Bethany “home” makes gift commitments that **expand and accelerate** their current level of giving. The best path to increased giving is the spiritual path, where we all set our hearts on things above. Financial priorities then take shape from spiritual priorities.

One way of defining this is “**Lifestyle Stewardship**,” a term used to describe a level of giving that affects our living. The challenge of Lifestyle Stewardship is to find ways, boldly and prayerfully, to expand our giving. Each one of us has different resources and abilities, which is why the phrase “equal sacrifice, not equal giving” rings true.

King David declared, “**I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing**” (2 Samuel 24:24 NIV). David understood the gift that would touch the heart of God must first touch the heart of the giver. This is the spirit of Lifestyle Stewardship: if it is for my God, my gift must have value and meaning to me.

Often, Lifestyle Giving means sacrificing something in one area to give more of yourself in another. The three keys to effectiveness in Lifestyle Stewardship are:

- **Reassess lifestyle**
- **Rearrange priorities**
- **Reallocate resources**

Many believers have been amazed at their ability to give more generously to their church than they ever thought possible by engaging in the following practices.

1. PRACTICE PRIORITY BUDGETING

Many people choose to rearrange their priorities and give up something in their current budget to give more to a generosity initiative. This may mean postponing a planned expenditure such as a new car, vacation, home remodel, or other major purchase. Many people find ways to give through sacrificial commitments made in faith and coupled with priority budgeting.

2. REDIRECT PRESENT EXPENDITURES

Often there are significant short-term expenditures for particular needs. One example is the large expense a family incurs for a child to attend college. One family realized their daughters would be graduating from college during the two years of the generosity initiative, and as a result, they were able to increase their commitment to the second year of the initiative by thousands of dollars because they redirected what they had been spending on their daughters’ tuition. Another example is the cash flow that is freed up when a car or home loan is paid off.

3. INCREASE GIVING WHEN INCOME INCREASES

Some people receive periodic increases in salary or bonuses from their employers. The temptation for many of us is to increase our lifestyle to fit the higher income. In many instances, people have decided that they will commit the full amount of salary increases to their church’s generosity initiative.

4. GIVE FROM YOUR EXCESS

A young man decided that two collectors’ baseball cards worth over \$20,000 that he had been holding

for a number of years would be the most appropriate means of sacrifice for him. Some families save money over a period of years for a special project. One couple had saved \$80,000 to build a lake cabin. When their church entered a generosity initiative, they decided the needs of the church were greater than their need for a second home.

5. COMMIT UNEXPECTED CASH

Often, people pray for God to show them a way they can give beyond what they can presently see or afford. Sometimes, the answers come unexpectedly. A couple had been praying for weeks about their commitment to the church generosity initiative. Much to their surprise, they received an inheritance of several thousand dollars. They gave the entire amount to their church as part of their two-year commitment, in addition to a commitment from their regular income.

6. GIVE YOUR EXTRA TIME

Some people have extra time they would be willing to use in a part- or full-time job to be able to give more to the church. One man was in the process of retiring when his church entered a initiative; he decided to postpone retirement by one year and committed his entire salary that year to the giving initiative.

7. DONATE APPRECIATED ASSETS (STORED RESOURCES)

Many people own stocks that are worth significantly more than the original purchase price. That is good news. The bad news is that if these stocks are sold, a significant portion of the gain would be lost to taxation.

Gifts of appreciated assets—typically investment securities, real estate, and crypto-currencies—can be very advantageous to both the donor and to the church. By transferring ownership of the asset to the church, the giver avoids capital gains taxes on the sale of the asset. In addition, the giver receives an income tax charitable deduction for the full market value of the asset. That, in effect, makes these gifts less costly to make.

	Sell Asset & Gift Net Proceeds	Transfer Asset Directly
Value of Asset	\$50,000	\$50,000
Original Purchase Price	\$10,000	\$10,000
Amount of Appreciation	\$40,000	\$40,000
Capital Gains & State Taxes*	\$9,720	\$0
Proceeds to Church <i>(asset value minus taxes)</i>	\$40,280	\$50,000

*Assumes a 12-month holding period, 15% capital gains tax, 9.3% state income tax rate

It is important to consider the tax implications of making a gift to the church. Before making a commitment of this type, please consult your CPA, tax attorney, or other financial advisor.

CONSIDER THE CHARITABLE IRA
Congress has enacted a permanent extension of the IRA charitable rollover. As a result, individuals age 70½ or older can make gifts directly from their IRA to charity.

- Benefits of an IRA Charitable Rollover*
- **Avoid taxes on transfers of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to Bethany**
 - **Satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year**
 - **Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions**
 - **Make a gift that is not subject to the 50% deduction limits on charitable gifts**

A Final Word about Planning Your Giving

Giving does not have to be in equal increments over the two-year period of the initiative. As you consider your financial commitment, think about both your current and future potential to give. It might be that you can make a two-year commitment in which 35-40% is given in the first year and 60-65% is given in the second year. Or, perhaps you are ready to give from stored resources and you are able to do that sooner. Giving earlier in the initiative is a boost for Bethany, as it would help with our ability to purchase the North Church building or even eliminate the need for a loan.

Finally, as you consider your financial commitment, you might want to consider estate planning. Many faithful believers have not made provision for God in their wills and estate plans. It might be as simple as including a provision in your will that 10% of the value of your estate will be donated to the church of which you are a member at the time of your passing. Or it could involve a planned gift such as a charitable remainder trust. While such gifts may not provide immediate financial benefit to the generosity initiative, they are marvelous gifts of faith to carry on the work of the church for future generations.

Giving Scenarios

Initial Giver

Michael is new to the faith and has never given before. He took the Spiritual Journey class at Bethany Green Lake and is now starting several spiritual disciplines, including financial generosity. It’s a huge step of faith for him, but Michael has decided to give \$25 per week. Combined with \$500 from his savings, Michael plans to give a total two-year contribution of \$3,100 to the Hope Rising initiative.

Consistent Giver

Michelle has witnessed changes in her own life as she’s been part of ministry and community, first at Bethany Green Lake and now at Bethany West Seattle. So far, she has been giving casually if she has extra cash on hand during offering time. However, she now feels led to become more consistent in her giving by setting up a recurring gift online. Her plan is to increase her usual annual giving of \$500 by \$1250, bringing her up to \$1,750 a year. With the addition of \$500 from a vacation savings fund, in two years she will have given \$4,000 to the Hope Rising initiative.

Intentional Giver

Christina and Mark are members at Bethany Northeast and have given consistently to the church at a steady 5%. With a combined income of \$120,000, they contribute \$6,000 each year. Hope Rising, however, has prompted

INITIAL GIVER | WORKSHEET EXAMPLE

\$	0	What I/we normally give in one year
\$	+ 1,300	My/our extended annual generosity for Hope Rising
\$	= 1,300	x 2 years = \$ 2,600
	My/our gifts from stored resources <i>(stocks, real estate, savings, selling items, etc.)</i>	+ \$ 500
	My/Our Two-Year Commitment	\$ 3,100

CONSISTENT GIVER | WORKSHEET EXAMPLE

\$	500	What I/we normally give in one year
\$	+ 1,250	My/our extended annual generosity for Hope Rising
\$	= 1,750	x 2 years = \$ 3,500
	My/our gifts from stored resources <i>(stocks, real estate, savings, selling items, etc.)</i>	+ \$ 500
	My/Our Two-Year Commitment	\$ 4,000

INTENTIONAL GIVER | WORKSHEET EXAMPLE

\$	6,000	What I/we normally give in one year
\$	+ 6,000	My/our extended annual generosity for Hope Rising
\$	= 12,000	x 2 years = \$ 24,000
	My/our gifts from stored resources <i>(stocks, real estate, savings, selling items, etc.)</i>	+ \$ 2,000
	My/Our Two-Year Commitment	\$ 26,000



them to tithe a full 10%. It will require some adjustments, but they know it's what they can do to respond to God's generosity. Also, they've been saving for a boat but have decided to give the \$2,000 in that account as well. They are now planning to give \$26,000 to the church over the next two years.

Sacrificial Giver

Andrew developed the discipline of tithing years ago, and he has experienced God's provision again and again during his time at Bethany Ballard. Andrew will increase his giving percentage from 10% to 12% of his annual income of \$70,000, or \$8,400 a year. Over two years, with the addition of \$2,000 from the transfer of stocks that are no longer of interest to him, Andrew looks forward to giving \$18,800 to the Hope Rising initiative.

Lifetime Giver

Amanda loves to give of her time, talents, and resources, and has experienced this joy at Bethany North. She has set a lifetime giving goal for herself, and she is excited to reach it. She has been giving 15% of her \$90,000 income (\$13,500) to the church in recent years, but she is inspired to increase the annual amount to \$15,000. She has been considering the purchase of a new home recently but has realized that purchase may inhibit her ability to reach her giving goal. So, Amanda has decided not to move and to give her down payment toward the Hope Rising initiative instead.

Making a Hope Rising Commitment

HELPFUL EXERCISE AND REFLECTION TO DO AT HOME PRIOR TO COMMITMENT WEEKEND.

1. List your current financial commitments - those that go beyond a one-time payment and have a time duration to them. Ex: a home mortgage, lease agreement, childcare, car loan, cell phone contract, school tuition, etc.

2. List your other monthly financial expenses. Ex: eating out, travel, etc.

3. If someone who didn't know you looked at your monthly commitments and expenses, what might they say you value? Would those statements be true about you?

4. Write out the commitment you plan to make toward Hope Rising.

a. Where does it fall in relation to your other financial commitments?

b. Will you need to modify other commitments to fulfill your Hope Rising commitment?

c. What would be needed if you wanted to increase your Hope Rising commitment?

d. How are your current financial commitments aligned with your desire to respond to God's generosity?
5. If you keep your commitment to Hope Rising over the next two years, what might deepen, grow, or change about the way that you follow Jesus? What spiritual transformation might happen in you?

6. How will you leverage this change to inspire others in your life - family, co-workers, Bethany family, or others in your circles of influence? What might you inspire them toward?

PRAY OVER YOUR COMMITMENT: Prayer, both individually and corporately, is essential to Hope Rising.

LET'S DO THIS! Let's boldly surrender ourselves to God in every area of our lives so that together we can be people of hope, shining the light of Jesus in every corner of our communities!



SACRIFICIAL GIVER | WORKSHEET EXAMPLE

\$ 7,000

What I/we normally give in one year

\$ + 1,400

My/our extended annual generosity for Hope Rising

\$ = 8,400

x 2 years = \$ 16,800

My/our gifts from stored resources (stocks, real estate, savings, selling items, etc.)

\$ + 2,000

My/Our Two-Year Commitment

\$ 18,800

LIFETIME GIVER | WORKSHEET EXAMPLE

\$ 13,500

What I/we normally give in one year

\$ + 1,500

My/our extended annual generosity for Hope Rising

\$ = 15,000

x 2 years = \$ 30,000

My/our gifts from stored resources (stocks, real estate, savings, selling items, etc.)

\$ + 60,000

My/Our Two-Year Commitment

\$ 90,000

My/Our Two-Year Commitment

Please use this worksheet to estimate giving. These numbers may be changed at any time.

\$ _____

What I/we normally give in one year

+

\$ _____

My/our extended annual generosity
for Hope Rising

=

\$ _____

x 2 years = \$ _____

+

My/our gifts from stored resources
(stocks, real estate, savings, selling items, etc.)

\$ _____

=

My/Our Two-Year Hope Rising Commitment

\$ _____

November 2024–2026



What are you asking me to do?

Pray, Engage, Grow, Commit

Ask God what He is calling you to do, and be willing to go where He leads you.

PRAY: Pray and seek God's direction. Prepare your heart to hear Him, and then listen to what He says.

ENGAGE AND GROW: Engage in personal reflection with God using this guide and by engaging in weekly worship during the Hope Rising sermon series. Talk with your family and friends about what this commitment to discipleship and generosity will mean for this next season of your life.

COMMIT: Follow with joyful obedience whatever God asks you to do. Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 27—we will engage in very special worship services at all six locations. Together, we will bring our commitments forward. We can't wait to see what God will do!

FAQs

What is Hope Rising?

Hope Rising is an initiative aimed to fund the priorities of Vision 2030 along with ongoing ministries and capital expenses. We want to grow in faith and in generosity so that we can provide energy, resources, programs, and staff related to these essential core values. We believe that God will draw people to Christ through these expanded programs and our own generous discipleship. We are all here at this moment in time at Bethany for a reason; let's grow together! Hope Rising will help all of us take steps to strengthen our church and lean into God's purposes for us.

What is Vision 2030?

Vision 2030 is the direction God is leading Bethany over the coming years:

We are building a church that is encountering God, cultivating relationships, and serving our communities. We will follow Jesus and lead others in five key ways: worship, relationships, justice, leadership, and family.

Why are we doing this now?

Bethany is at a crucial point of growth and momentum. By establishing more permanent and thriving locations, we're aiming to reduce the number of mobile and temporary ministry sites so that we can steward deeper discipleship and share the good news in our city.

We are considering a specific building for Bethany North, which has influenced our cost estimates, but our plans extend beyond this building. With increased support over the next two years, we believe God is calling us to expand. We are committed to making decisions in faith, trusting in God's provision as we move forward.

How does this work with our regular Bethany budget?

Hope Rising is a unified giving initiative in support of our mission and vision at all locations. We want to be clear that Hope Rising's financial goals include both regular annual giving and expanded giving toward new capital projects and ministries. All money given will be used to fund ongoing ministry expenses throughout Bethany, local outreach and global missions, significant projects such as a permanent home for Bethany North, expansion of key ministries (such as college ministry, leadership development), and Vision 2030 priorities.

How is Hope Rising different from other campaigns we've done at Bethany?

Our primary goal is 100% engagement and spiritual growth in the area of generosity, and our secondary goal is to raise all the money needed to fund our vision and ministries over the next two years.

GOAL 1: For our entire community to experience a deepening of discipleship and encountering the generous, overflowing love of God. This generosity initiative is discipleship-oriented. It is aimed toward helping us grow as individuals and increase our impact as a church.

GOAL 2: To raise all the financial resources needed to fund our vision and ministries over the next two years, including new capital projects and ministries. All giving will be unified as one fund. There will not be a separate "capital campaign" as there has been in some campaigns in the past.

How does the financial goal compare to current giving at Bethany?

We believe this financial goal is attainable based on current annual giving. This initiative will invite new and existing givers to think creatively about generosity, aiming for an additional \$7.4M over two years. While we don't know exactly how God will provide, Bethany has spent months in prayer and financial projections with wise counsel, and we believe these numbers are achievable for a church of our size. Throughout our 108-year history, God's people at Bethany have stepped up to fund expanded visions for the future of our city and church, and we're excited for what God will do next.

Does Bethany have financial resources available for these Hope Rising priorities?

Bethany's Council has approved using \$2M of Bethany's current available capital toward a down payment for purchasing the Bethany North Church Building. While it is a blessing to have this financial sum available from prior campaigns and from the stewardship of the annual operating budget, there will be additional funding needed to either purchase outright or finance the building and remodel.

What if the Hope Rising commitment is more or less than \$22.8M?

This isn't just about raising money—in fact, if someone offered to write a check for \$22.8M right now, we'd still do this giving initiative! We are aiming to experience a deepening of the discipleship of our community. If God provides financial resources beyond \$22.8M, this would allow us to move more quickly and widely to expand ministries and facilities, to dream bigger! Additional funding will allow greater “pay-it-forward” resources to be available for future facilities and ministry expansions. If less, we would scale back the timing of expansions and review funding priorities to align with the decreased resources available. Bethany has and will continue to prayerfully steward resources and exercise careful fiscal responsibility.

I've never given to Bethany before. Is Hope Rising for me?

This is a great time to give your first gift to Bethany. Please consider joining this exciting Hope Rising journey and making your first-time financial commitment.

How long is my commitment?

This is a 24-month commitment that will give Bethany a strong foundation upon which to build. We'll begin giving together toward the Hope Rising Initiative on Celebration Sunday on November 17, 2024 at all locations, and will conclude in November of 2026.

It's hard for me to imagine taking a step forward in financial generosity because money is tight. Does Bethany have any classes or counselors that could help me create a budget and get a handle on my finances? And should I still give even if I'm in debt?

We do have classes and counselors who would love to help you. You can reach out to the lead pastor of the location you attend to be connected. Engaging with this discipleship journey is for everyone; don't let your financial situation hinder your participation. We hope that you will experience the hope and healing of Christ in this area as you come to know the generous heart of God.

Can I make a gift of appreciated assets to Hope Rising?

Yes, Bethany is set up to accept gifts of stock, property, cryptocurrency, IRA distributions, and more. Please reach out to Finance Director Nicole Summervill at finance@churchbcc.org with any questions.

Can I set up a matching gift from my employer?

Yes, Bethany regularly receives matching gifts from employers such as Microsoft, Google, Apple, and Salesforce. Contact Nicole Summervill to set this up: finance@churchbcc.org

How does this Hope Rising Giving Initiative help Bethany accomplish our mission?

Inviting people to God, community, and wholeness is Bethany's mission. We hope that every person who calls Bethany “home” will discern their role in the Body of Christ at Bethany and will understand their role in the big story God is writing.

I have further questions; who can I reach out to?

We'd love to talk with you about Hope Rising and your discipleship journey. Please reach out to the Lead Pastor of your location or staff@churchbcc.org



THE PRAYER OF STEWARDSHIP

O' Eternal God,

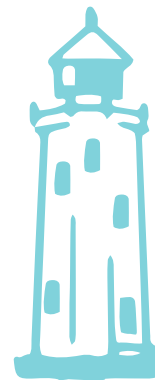
Although I cannot see you with my eyes or touch you with my hands, give me today a clear conviction of your reality and power. Do not let me go into the day believing only in the world of sense and time, but give me grace to understand that the world I cannot see or touch is the most real world of all.

My life today will be lived in time, but it will involve eternal issues. The needs of my body will shout out, but it is for the needs of my soul that I must care for the most. My life will consist of material things, but let me be aware of the spiritual things behind them. Let me always keep in mind the things that matter are not money or possessions, not houses or property, not bodily comforts or pleasures, but your will and ways that come from a pure love and trust in you.

Lord, what do you want me to do today with all you've entrusted to me to honor you, and to advance your kingdom?

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Adapted from John Baillie's A Diary of Private Prayer & The Steward's Prayer



Hope Rising

Behind the Design

The logo that you see here has lines emitting from a wordmark. The lines play a double meaning. They depict a sun and were also directly inspired by the "Sacred Heart of Christ," an ancient visual depiction of Jesus, which has appeared throughout church history. Our hope through generosity and service is that the heart of Christ would live in us and move outward to the people of Seattle.



bethany
COMMUNITY CHURCH

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