

# *Joining Jesus:* A campaign for St. Peter's Episcopal Church



*Bringing  
People to  
Christ and the  
Church*

Dear Companions in Christ,

At St. Peter's Church, you are a part of a community that worships God and leads with love, service, and God's praise. As we enter into this year, and for the next 200 years ahead, we will continue to carry that legacy of ardent spirituality, true education, good humor, community engagement, and deep faith.

As living members of this parish and community, it is our commitment to uphold our faith, the Church, and the word of Jesus Christ in all we do today, and for generations to come. We participate in God's mission of healing and reconciliation in many ways at St. Peter's, some inside our walls and some beyond. We seek to be the light of Christ in dark places and to bear witness to that same light already shining forth from such places. We pray and listen carefully to how we might partner with God so that our passions, gifts, skills, and resources can fully meet particular needs in our community and in the world.

This call to action is admirable and appropriate, and it has been my honor to serve with you as the pastor of a congregation of such spirit and vision. My respect for this mission is such that I wish to ensure this parish will continue to serve well into the future.

With our Vestry's accord, we believe the time has come for us to respond, renew, and reinvest more deeply in our Church and God's mission. We invite you to consider our vision as outlined in this document, and hope you will embrace this historical milestone with humility and hospitality. Moving forward in faith, we feel confident that with the intention and support of the St. Peter's community, we will continue to live out God's mission for generations to come.

Yours in Christ,

The Reverend Matt Lindeman  
Rector, St. Peter's Episcopal Church

# Joining Jesus

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT) has been on a journey to imagine how the Church must be transformed to participate more fully in God's mission in these changing times. We have embraced changes to our common life and structures, including the establishment of Regions, the introduction of Region Missionaries, and the empowering of Ministry Networks. We continue to reflect deeply on what God is up to in our neighborhoods and where we might go next; and through this God is blessing us with new life and new possibility.

And yet we still ask faithfully: **How do we follow Jesus in this new missional age?**

To inspire Episcopalians in Connecticut to participate in God's mission with greater creativity, confidence, breadth, and depth, ECCT launched *Joining Jesus*, an initiative to transform our parishes, Regions, and the wider Church.

St. Peter's *Joining Jesus* campaign is designed to provide both for our local parish needs, as well as the needs of specific Episcopal initiatives in Connecticut.



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*What we are considering is nothing less than fundamental spiritual transformation of individuals and communities.”*

*- The Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas,  
Bishop Diocesan*

# *St. Peter's Today*

The vibrant community of St. Peter's is one of faith and fellowship. This is because of your love for the Lord and our predecessors who lived as faithful Christians. Established more than 250 years ago, this church continues to be a place for all. It is both our privilege and our responsibility to honor and continue that legacy each day. As God loves all, our doors turn no one away. Walking in faith together, we joyously celebrate life, worship God, and carry our love and spiritual blessings to homebound parishioners, and all those who seek God's word.

In ministry led by St. Peter's, we have been called many times to find love in hardship, healing in pain, and strength, fellowship, and unity in adversity. Today, our community and the world face complexities and we must ask ourselves what role we serve in the fight for justice, peace, and equality.

Today, St. Peter's is a thriving and diverse faith community of families and members of all backgrounds. We are a group of modern-day followers of Jesus, gathered to love God and to serve others with skill, creativity, and passion. We thank God for the tremendous blessings God has bestowed on us as we turn our sights to the future.

# Our Campaign

Through prayer, conversation, and research, we have decided to address St. Peter's needs through a \$500,000 campaign in conjunction with the Episcopal Church in Connecticut: *Joining Jesus*. This extraordinary effort will be unlike any our parish has previously undertaken, and success will depend on the prayerful participation of our loyal families and friends. Our campaign will support the following priorities:



**\$200,000**  
Address specific capital needs to better care for creation and increase accessibility



**\$100,000**  
To support youth and family ministries and formation

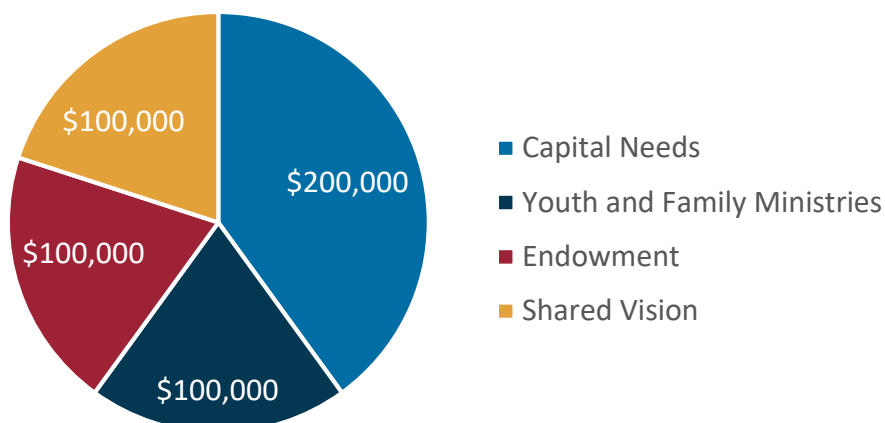


**\$100,000**  
Strengthen our unrestricted endowment to ensure financial stability



**\$100,000**  
An entrepreneurial fund to resource new undertakings in each Region

## POTENTIAL FUNDING BREAKDOWN



# Addressing Capital Projects

As we look to the years ahead, we must steward the upkeep and development of our current buildings and grounds with a conscience mind focused on faith and our impact on the natural world. We must lead by example in the small and great choices that we make to ensure we are doing what we can to support environmental sustainability and encourage others to practice and live with the same principles. The intended focus of the funds raised from the *Joining Jesus* campaign will ensure more efficient and less impactful energy consumption across St. Peter's campus by:

- Updating the windows in the Parish Hall and Rectory and enhancing the Parish Hall ceiling to enhance energy efficiency
- Renovating the porch and entry
- Refurbishing the attic

Additionally, St. Peter's seeks to steward our current buildings and grounds, and adapt and develop spaces to encourage our flourishing parish life, and allow us to welcome all who enters our congregation. **Reconfiguring our space** will ensure it is safe and more of our building is accessible.

We must act now *and* plan for our future.

*To Share the Gospel of  
Jesus Christ;*

*To Prepare Disciples;*

*To Care For The  
Community*



DRAFT

*Through this campaign, we seek to raise \$200,000 to support care for our church and God's creation.*

# *Supporting Youth and Family Ministries*

At St. Peter's, we seek to be a vibrant and thriving community for children of all ages—a safe place where kids can develop a sense of identity, explore and engage in Christian faith formation, and learn how to contribute to society through service learning and teamwork.

Funded by the generosity of parishioners during St. Peter's last campaign, our parish currently has a strong pipeline for faith formation and spiritual education. Currently, our youth programs are coordinated by a corps of dedicated volunteers. The time has come for us to reinvest in the services we provide for young people. Potential initiatives include:

- **Enriching Sunday School programming**
- **Expanding service learning opportunities to include long-term community projects**
- **Sponsoring teen outings to build teamwork and camaraderie**
- **Offering special speakers and events**

*"All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small, All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all."*

*- Cecil Frances Alexander*





*Through this campaign, we seek to raise \$100,000 to support youth and family programs.*



# Strengthen *the Endowment*

St. Peter's seeks to build and strengthen an endowment, which will allow us to receive gifts and bequests with the intent of being maintained on a long-term basis, generating income from the fund's interest and providing support for St. Peter's mission into the future. The endowment complements the significant tithes offered by faithful members during good financial times and provides for continuity of service in difficult times.

Funds raised through this campaign will ensure St. Peter's is sustained into the future.

**The endowment funds raised for St. Peter's are intended to be merely a beginning.** By educating parishioners about planned giving, we will offer the faithful an opportunity to perpetually sustain the Episcopal faith at St. Peter's through their estate plans.

**"** Follow Me and I will make you fish for people."

Matthew 4:19



*Through this campaign, we seek to raise \$100,000 for our endowment to sustain St. Peter's work with our neighbors and community, today and into the future.*



SHARED VISION

# Support for *Regions*

The six Regions were established in 2016, after extensive discernment of the Taskforce for Reimagining the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (TREC-CT), to provide greater opportunity for collaboration among parishes and with other organizations. Each Region is served by a Region Missionary who helps parishes and parishioners **catalyze, connect, convene, and build capacity** to engage God's mission in meaningful ways. Supported by the Regions and Region Missionaries, ECCT parishes have had the opportunity to participate in many collaborative initiatives, from Region confirmation classes to Region Training Programs for Lay Preachers. The development of Ministry Networks has nurtured Episcopalians' involvement in community gardens, international mission, and racial healing, justice, and reconciliation, to name just a few.

*Joining Jesus in a New Missional Age* seeks to further support the Regions with a newly launched entrepreneurial fund that will provide grants to new projects and ministry possibilities arising out of our Regions. Financial support for new Region projects will enrich and invigorate our common life as Episcopalians in Connecticut participating in God's mission.



*Through this campaign, we seek to raise \$100,000 to support new undertakings in each Region and the greater Episcopal community in Connecticut.*



# How You Can Help

ST. PETER'S VESTRY

The *Joining Jesus* campaign seeks participation of all God's people at St. Peter's to ensure our continued vitality in participating in God's mission and sharing God's love with our neighbors.

Each family or individual's financial situation is different – and ability to give can change from time to time. The special projects outlined here, which require support beyond St. Peter's annual stewardship, are an opportunity for you to become involved in a way that is appropriate for you, your family, and circumstance.

Our campaign will pursue gifts payable over five years so that all individuals and families in our parish have the opportunity to give a gift according to how they have been blessed. To be successful, this effort will require the generosity of many, not just a few.

These are exciting times for our community, and this campaign will be transformative for St. Peter's.

**Join us as we set out on a faith-filled journey to proudly proclaim our faith and make meaningful investments in a strong and secure future for St. Peter's.**

ST. PETER'S  
CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

# Methods of Giving

Let us keep in mind the many blessings we have received in our lives. Recognizing that all of our blessings are from God, we are asking you to give a gift in thanksgiving for God's goodness. Your gift to this campaign is an opportunity to join a wider Episcopal effort across Connecticut in strengthening our communities and our faith.

The *Joining Jesus* campaign seeks multi-year pledges. Gifts may be accepted in a variety of forms, with an emphasis on those that can be used immediately. All gifts are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

## PLEDGES

Pledges payable over three to five years allow donors to consider more substantial commitments than are possible with one-time gifts. Those who pledge may determine payment schedules to meet their own charitable or tax needs. Payments may be made by check, credit card, electronic fund transfer, stock transfer, or by recommendations to Donor Advised Funds.

## PLANNED GIFTS

Remembering St. Peter's in your will is the most common form of planned giving. Allocating a percentage of your estate would be a generous way to honor the parish and could also reduce your estate taxes. For planned gifts, please speak with your financial advisor.

## SECURITIES

Gifts of stock can be a source of significant tax benefit by eliminating capital gains taxes. Any gift of stock will be sold as soon as it is received, and the value of the gift will be determined at the time of transfer.

## IRA TRANSFER

If you are over the age of 70 ½ and have an IRA, you may be interested in donating directly from your retirement assets. By making a gift from your IRA, you can exclude that amount from your annual income, thereby reducing your taxable income and satisfying your minimum required distribution for that year. Any gift of IRA assets must be transferred directly from your IRA brokerage account to the campaign.



**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, MILFORD**

71 River Street

Milford, CT 06460

(203) 874-8562 • [stpetersmilford.org](http://stpetersmilford.org)



*St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Milford*  
*Joining Jesus Campaign*  
Frequently Asked Questions

**1. Are there budget areas we can reduce or alternative ways to pay for this work?**

Our regular collections and existing reserves cannot generate enough additional revenue to undertake these projects, and borrowing for the long-term is an undue burden on the operating budget.

**2. Why would our parish need to build its endowment?**

Endowments provide a permanent source of ongoing revenue that can help us weather economic downturns without necessarily having to reduce or eliminate essential staff positions, programs, or important mission and ministries. Additionally, spendable income from endowments could be used to provide funding for programs or maintenance without placing additional demands on the annual pledges and weekly plate contributions that fund the parish's daily operations.

The present and future realities necessitate careful planning and strategic investments in order to maintain and/or grow our spiritual life together and to serve others. Our hope and expectation is to address these needs now, while the overall economic environment is positive.

**3. Can some of the intended work be accomplished by parishioners?**

Of course, some of the work can be done with volunteer labor, though it would likely be limited to painting, carpentry, and other similar projects. St. Peter's hopes to take full advantage of parishioner expertise and donated labor, services, and materials whenever feasible.

**4. Is now really the best time for St. Peter's to be doing this campaign?**

The Vestry considered timing very thoroughly when we decided to participate in *Joining Jesus*. There are many factors that contributed to our decision to campaign. We conducted a thorough planning study with the help of campaign counsel, which showed that there was an enthusiasm for our parish and for these projects. We have a vision at our parish that can be accomplished with funds raised through this campaign, and we have the opportunity to receive campaign counsel provided by the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT), as well as to work collaboratively with other parishes to support the common vision of our wider Church and initiatives from which we will all have the opportunity to benefit.

**5. What makes us think we could generate \$500,000?**

St. Peter’s is blessed with a generous and loyal faith community. Our past successes with annual stewardship and the enthusiasm displayed during the planning phase gives us confidence that potential exists in the parish for supporting a major campaign.

**6. Why are we collaborating with the Episcopal Church in Connecticut on this campaign?**

We are all a part of a larger Episcopal faith community and should be committed to sustaining and growing the ministries and spirituality of every member, both now and in the future. With this in mind, the intention is for the *Joining Jesus* campaign to benefit all in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. Our parish campaign is dovetailing with the larger ECCT campaign—the first one conducted in many years—because it makes sense to do so. The current ECCT campaign is encouraging parishes to opt-in, raise money for their own needs, and direct a percentage of their fundraising to a portion of the larger campaign as they wish (just like any donor). Our parish has decided to contribute a portion of our campaign’s proceeds to supporting Region initiatives through a grant fund, which St. Peter’s would have the opportunity to access if we wished to pursue collaborative ministries with neighboring parishes.

**7. How is the *Joining Jesus* campaign different from Common Mission Support?**

Common Mission Support provides necessary annual operating support for the annual Budget of Convention, a concrete example of our common witness to, and participation in, God’s mission of restoration and reconciliation in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Through it we support mission activities across Connecticut, in the broader Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion, and ecumenically. *Joining Jesus* will raise new funds for extraordinary capital and programmatic needs that will fortify key programs within the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, as well as local parish needs. Through this campaign, ECCT will: provide new levels of financial support to parishes through local campaigns; further transform our Cathedral’s space as a site for engaging the world; provide support for the Regions with an entrepreneurial fund for shared, innovative ministries; support intentional Christian living communities in Connecticut, such as Episcopal Service Corps or college chaplaincies; and enhance Camp Washington as a resource for faith formation for children, youth, and adults. Just as parishes depend on annual pledging, ECCT will continue to depend on funds for current operations from Common Mission Support.

**8. Why aren’t we exempted from Common Mission Support during the year we run the campaign?**

During the course of the campaign, it is vital that we maintain the financial resources required to sustain the ministries, programs, and services funded by the Budget of Convention, which can only be accomplished through Common Mission Support.

**9. How many other parishes are participating in the *Joining Jesus* campaign?**

Our parish is one of 15 parishes to date participating in this initiative over the past year. There is strength in numbers, and together with other parishes that have opted in, we are participating in transforming the greater Episcopal Church in Connecticut.

**10. How will the *Joining Jesus* campaign affect our parish pledging?**

In the short term, pledging should remain level, with a possible small fluctuation up or down, as can occur in any year. Capital campaigns bring transformational resources for purposes above and beyond annual operating expenses. Annual pledges are critical to funding the day-to-day operating needs of our parish. In this campaign, we ask that parishioners consider a campaign gift that is above and beyond their regular giving.

**11. Is it expensive to conduct *Joining Jesus*?**

Fundraising is a process that has many components, and investments must be made in order to complete the process. As part of the careful study and strategic planning that went into *Joining Jesus*, ECCT developed a budget that includes fundraising counsel, professional services, the design, production, and distribution of campaign materials, brochures, mailings and postage, as well as other administrative expenses. The funding for these services is being provided by Mission Council, from funds from the Missionary Society's assets. St. Peter's may be responsible for some printing and postage costs at the conclusion of the campaign, but they will be very minimal.

**12. Are pledges legally binding?**

No. Pledges are not legally binding. If the donor's financial situation changes such that a pledge cannot be satisfied, simply communicate that with the Episcopal Church in Connecticut and inform the donor that they will not receive further communications regarding their pledges.

**13. Why are pledges encouraged, instead of one-time donations?**

Pledges provide parishioners with the opportunity to make a more significant gift to the mission of the Church. A contribution is easier to pay off over a period of time rather than a one-time gift out of pocket. In addition, pledges allow the Episcopal Church in Connecticut and your parish to better budget and plan for meeting the needs that will be addressed as a result of this campaign.

**14. How much are parishioners being asked to give to the campaign?**

Parishioners are asked to prayerfully consider specific gift plans in accordance with their own means, circumstances, and sacrificial levels. Pledges are payable in monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual installments over a 5-year period.

**15. Who handles the redemption of the pledges?**

Families are asked to make their pledges to the *Joining Jesus* campaign, at which time the Episcopal Church in Connecticut will be responsible for the redemption of the pledges. Staff will track pledges and gifts and handle the mailing of payment reminders over the 5-year pledge period. Each parish will receive regular reports detailing the names of the parishioners, and their pledged and paid amounts.

**16. Where are the gifts deposited? To whom are the checks written? Where are they sent?**

Gifts and payments will be deposited in a campaign-specific fund managed by the Episcopal Church in Connecticut and disbursed to the appropriate entity or endowed fund according to each gifts' designation. Donors will make out their checks to Episcopal Church in Connecticut. Pledges and initial payments will be collected at the parish while the campaign is active. Future payments will be mailed by donors directly to the Episcopal Church in Connecticut via a remittance form and envelope they receive with reminders. Donors may also choose to pay with other methods of giving such as credit card, stock transfers, or automatic bank withdrawal.

**17. Will any of these funds be used for items other than the established case elements?**

No. The *Joining Jesus* campaign has both a legal and moral obligation to restrict these funds for the stated elements. The funds raised for the campaign will be used for the named case elements and in accordance with the donor's stated intent.

*Additional Questions?*

Please feel free to contact our campaign director:

Emma Hutchinson • (617) 922-7025 • [ehutchinson@episcopalct.org](mailto:ehutchinson@episcopalct.org)

# ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Milford, CT

Joining Jesus

Table of Gifts for a \$500,000 Working Goal

Pledge Amount	# of Gifts Needed	Gift Level Total	Cumulative Total
\$50,000+	2	\$100,000	\$100,000
\$25,000	4	\$100,000	\$200,000
\$12,000	10	\$120,000	\$320,000
\$6,000	14	\$84,000	\$404,000
\$3,000	18	\$54,000	\$458,000
Under	Many	\$42,000	\$500,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>65+</b>	<b>\$500,000+</b>	

## Pledge Calculator

<i>Example 5-Year Pledge</i>	<i>5 Annual Payments</i>	<i>20 Quarterly Payments</i>	<i>60 Monthly Payments</i>	<i>Daily Equivalent</i>
\$100,000	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$1,670	\$53.87
\$50,000	\$10,000	\$2,500	\$835	\$26.88
\$25,000	\$5,000	\$1,250	\$415	\$13.44
\$12,000	\$2,400	\$600	\$200	\$6.45
\$6,000	\$1,200	\$300	\$100	\$3.23
\$3,000	\$600	\$150	\$50	\$1.61