

WAKE MY HEART

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY WAKE MY HEART? *Wake My Heart* is our response to the call of God for Vox Church. Since the day this church began God has led us to act like we would see New England changed from the least-churched region in the U.S. to the most spiritually vibrant place on earth. It became clear to the leaders at Vox that we couldn't see a spiritual awakening without a corresponding *generosity* awakening. The vision of Vox is impossible unless 100% of the people participate. The truth is that the ministry at Vox is primarily funded by a fraction of the people who attend. These people are not primarily wealthy philanthropists. They are ordinary people who have chosen to live differently. The resources to advance the vision are already available through our collective sacrifice! It just means that each of us must experience a personal generosity awakening. 2 Corinthians 8:7, *"Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving."*

HOW IS THE CAMPAIGN DIFFERENT FROM OTHER TIMES OF SACRIFICIAL GIVING AT VOX? Throughout the history of our church, Vox has ended the year with a sacrificial offering to fund expansion. *Wake My Heart* is the first two-year, one-fund initiative we have ever attempted. By "one-fund" we mean that all of the money given to Vox over the next two years goes to the three priorities outlined. Our goal is to develop the lifestyle of generosity within our church and allow our faith to stretch through a two-year faith commitment.

WHAT IS AN ANCHOR LOCATION? WHY DO WE NEED ONE? WITH THE COST OF A LARGER BUILDING, CAN'T WE JUST KEEP RENTING BUILDINGS OR LAUNCH MORE LOCATIONS? An "Anchor Location" is a location that is larger by design to serve 5-6 other nearby campuses. This one location provides central office space, training, and auxiliary ministries like Men's Ministry, Women's, Youth, Marriage, etc. to the region. Right now, Vox exists without any Anchor Locations. Our goal is to scatter Anchor Locations across the region as we continue to grow. This ensures we have a structure of stability, durability, and longevity in place for the movement to expand in a healthy way. Vox has our largest location (about 1,500 people) in downtown New Haven without any permanent facilities. Our central office in the Westville section of New Haven is far too small for our current needs. New Haven is within 30-40 minutes of our Bridgeport, Middletown, North Haven, and Hartford locations. For the last two years we have sought to build an Anchor Location in New Haven and have not been able to find a viable opportunity. For these reasons, we feel an Anchor Location within 7 miles of the downtown New Haven area prepares us for future moves up the coast to Providence, Boston, and beyond as God awakens New England to the good news.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THIS GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN? Our primary goal is 100% of our congregation praying and participating in sacrificial generosity and that God would wake our hearts to what breaks His heart. This campaign is about spiritual growth that changes our values on the inside, so that we love what God loves more than anything else. This spiritual growth is what Paul had in mind when he said in 1 Timothy 6:19, *"Be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life."* After personal and spiritual growth, our secondary goal is \$16 million to awaken New England to the gospel of Jesus.

WHAT ABOUT MONEY GIVEN IN EXPANSION OFFERINGS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS? WHAT DID WE DO WITH THAT? Each year, the leadership at Vox has been faithful to use the funds we have received to expand. This expansion has looked different each year. In 2016, for example, expansion funds were used to secure a permanent facility in Middletown and launch Hartford. In 2017, funds were used to launch our Springfield location, and add staff to launch more services across our campuses. In 2018, a fund was started for our New Haven Anchor Location which has paid for an architect, engineer, and other services needed for preparation. It also funded the launch of Vox Stamford, and preparations for a Hartford-area expansion and Vox Worcester. The church continues to operate debt-free and manages within the resources that God provides. Any funds that were designated have been exclusively used for the projects they specified.

WHY SHOULD WE BUILD THE FIRST ANCHOR LOCATION IN THE NEW HAVEN AREA? WHY NOT NEAR HARTFORD OR BRIDGEPORT? The leadership at Vox has seriously prayed about these options. With the current growth of our church, we believe that an Anchor location within 10 minutes of downtown New Haven will provide the most opportunity for growth and impact at this time; thus expanding the rate at which we can establish new locations. Justin will preach live at both the new Anchor Location and Vox New Haven each Sunday, commuting back and forth between services. Vox New Haven is a rapidly growing location, but can be a challenge for families to attend. The new Anchor Location will provide another viable option for families in the New Haven area.

WILL A NEW HAVEN AREA ANCHOR LOCATION REPLACE THE COLLEGE STREET MUSIC HALL IN DOWNTOWN NEW HAVEN? No. This location will work with our downtown New Haven location to effectively reach the Greater New Haven area. It will offer multiple services on the weekend at different times than downtown.

AREN'T WE GROWING TOO FAST? This is also something the leadership at Vox is constantly praying about. We don't want to get ahead of God, and our work is not even close to complete at the campuses we started years ago! In the beginning days of Vox, God spoke a simple phrase into Justin's heart that changed his perspective: *simultaneous gospel expansion*. In other words, we don't have to pick between growing in one place or growing in four. We can, by His grace, do both at the same time. By empowering leaders and spreading out the responsibility, Vox can take ground on multiple fronts in any given year. The truth is that 14.8 million people live in New England and the vast majority are far from God. If God has opened the door for effective ministry, we must wisely, humbly, walk through it. If we need to slow down, God will show us, just as He stopped Paul and Timothy from going to Bithynia, and instead led them into Macedonia (Acts 16:6-10).

WHY DON'T WE JUST BUY LAND RATHER THAN A LONG-TERM LEASE? For over two years Vox has searched for property in the Greater New Haven area and has explored every viable option for a long-term facility. Land with enough parking in a desirable location (near a major highway in a high traffic area) has not been available at a price that is reasonable for us. A long-term lease option allows us to secure the facility we need now at a very reasonable rate with the flexibility to move into something larger in the future (10-20 yrs). The purchase of property and construction would also generally require a far larger amount of money upfront. Rather than take on a financial campaign double this size, we feel like the Wake My Heart financial goals are a reasonable step of faith for our church community.

HOW DOES AN ANCHOR LOCATION BENEFIT THE OTHER CAMPUSES? Glad you asked! Every campus massively benefits from the development of our first Anchor Location. First, all systems within our church are strengthened. As Vox grows in complexity, our central staff requires functional facilities to get the job done. This means better Kids Ministry, Worship Ministry, Men's Ministry, Women's Ministry, and Youth Ministry at ALL locations. As systems get better, materials produced for all campuses get better (better curriculum, retreats, Community Group resources, etc.) and training of leaders at your campus gets better! The Anchor Location also provides space for larger regional events (parenting workshops, marriage retreats, etc.) that all campuses at Vox benefit from. Along with this, our first Anchor Location will provide a stable facility to live stream our sermons across all locations. This means a dramatic improvement in video quality, preparing us for greater use on TV across New England. We truly believe that securing this Anchor Location will open up a whole new level of effective ministry at all Vox locations.

WHAT IF MY FINANCES CHANGE SUDDENLY? CAN I CHANGE MY FAITH COMMITMENT? Absolutely. We're not looking to put people into bondage. We do, however, believe that "God is able to make all grace abound to you," and that He will provide in miraculous ways.

WHAT IF I CANNOT FULFILL MY COMMITMENT? In churches across the nation, statistics show that 90% of all people who make a commitment like this are able to and actually do, pay them in full. Why is that? Simply put, the God who leads people into sacrificial generosity "supplies the sower with a return." However, this is not a binding contract, it is a faith commitment, so no shame or pressure will come from our office or leaders. Remember, as said, God is the one who provides seed for the sower, and your commitment vow is ultimately between you and Him.

WHY DO WE NEED TO SPEND SO MUCH MONEY ON A BUILDING? IF THE CHURCH IS MADE UP OF PEOPLE, SHOULDN'T WE SPEND THE MONEY ON PEOPLE INSTEAD OF BUILDINGS? Jesus died for people, not buildings. At Vox, our goal is to reach people, not build buildings. After eight years of primarily operating without permanent facilities, it is clear that our heart is not for a building! There are, however, many advantages to a large permanent space for a movement like ours. It has been very difficult for auxiliary ministries to get traction without a central facility. The staff has been less productive. Trainings and equipping for the church have been less frequent. The ability to provide ministry everyday is hindered. There comes a time when to reach people, the most efficient thing we can do is secure larger permanent buildings, which really are tools that enable greater effectiveness and efficiency. We have reached that time. Vox gives 11% of our annual budget towards local and global outreach. We are intentional and strategic in serving the poor and helping find long term solutions to the problems at home and around the world. This doesn't change. It's just time for a new level of effectiveness. But it provides more than effectiveness, it communicates to the cities and towns God places us in that we are here to stay, to serve, to minister.

WHAT SPECIFICALLY DO YOU NEED ME TO DO? First, we ask you to pray, "God, what part do You want me to play? What do You want to do through me?" We are trusting the Holy Spirit to do a work in us that no one else could do. Second, we ask that you position yourself to be available and willing to do what God asks you to do and commit to sacrificial generosity over the next two years. Thirdly, we ask you to fill out the commitment card on December 8th in obedience to how God leads you! While you may have to wrestle with the challenge God puts in your heart, or rearrange your priorities, or maybe even stretch (like the Macedonians in 2 Corinthians) "as they were able and beyond their ability," you should feel no stress, manipulation, or coercion. God will lead you further than you've ever gone if you will trust Him!

IS MY COMMITMENT A ONE-TIME GIFT OR MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS? HOW DOES THAT WORK? After you have taken the preparation steps of faith and prayer and arrived at the dollar amount God wants you to invest in the next two years, the committed amount can be fulfilled in the way that works best for you. On December 15th we will receive our first "Big Give" towards the *Wake My Heart* initiative. We encourage you to make the biggest faith-filled gift you can make that day, then fulfill the rest of your faith commitment over the next two years.

WHAT HAPPENS IF WE DON'T RAISE ENOUGH MONEY? WHAT HAPPENS IF WE RAISE MORE? First, we believe in the power of God's provision. So we are trusting Him all the way! Whatever resources are raised during the campaign will be used to move forward. Our pastors and leaders are working diligently to best utilize the funds that come in and we will grow to the degree that God provides. If we raise more than our goal, we are better positioned to move to new locations and expand ministry at current locations!

WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE MUCH EXPERIENCE IN GIVING TO THE WORK OF GOD THROUGH THE CHURCH? We have all been there, where Jesus had to first convict our hearts to trust Him with our money. So to those who have not participated in giving much at Vox, take the step of faith! This is your time to trust God like you never have before! He won't let you down! God is faithful, and you will experience miracles like never before. And remember "*I don't say this because I want a gift from you. Rather, I want you to receive a reward for your kindness.*" – Philippians 4:17.