



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question: How does *NEXT* differ from building fund capital campaigns?

Answer: *NEXT* is a ministry-focused effort rather than a three-year traditional capital.

Ebenezer West is one ministry on one mission with a shared vision to *NEXT* so future generations here in Athens and beyond know Jesus as Lord. As a result, we are inviting all of God's people who know and love our church to go *NEXT* together on this generosity journey.

Question: *NEXT* sounds great, but what will happen if we miss our target of \$4 million in commitments? Is there a chance the project I'm most excited about will not be completed?

Answer: We expect to reach the goal despite the challenge and opportunity it represents! However, if we fall short, we will adjust expenditures proportionally based on priorities determined by our leaders in close collaboration with our staff. We are committed to clearly communicating any shift with the congregation at that time. Unless we fall short of the goal, none of the initiatives will be eliminated.

Question: I want to ensure our church carefully manages our congregation's budgetary needs, manages long-term indebtedness, and invests in ministry opportunities. Will my generosity through *NEXT* make a difference?

Answer: As God's faithful stewards, we share your interest in these essential ministry investments. Your *NEXT* gifts make the difference! The \$4 million *NEXT* generosity goal includes funding towards a well-conceived growth initiative and adequate working capital to continue our current ministry as we pursue a new wing that will advance future ministry impact.

Question: How long is my (our) commitment?

Answer: We ask that everyone at Ebenezer West make a two-year commitment that begins Sunday, June 30, and extends through June 28, 2026.

Question: Will I (we) be able to designate my generosity to a specific *NEXT* project that really excites me?

Answer: As congregants, we will entrust our leaders with the responsibility to prioritize and manage new initiatives and investments as God's people generously respond to the challenge and opportunity *NEXT*

provides us. Your leaders are committed to ongoing communication with the congregation. As investment decisions are considered, they will also seek voters' action as needed, consistent with Ebenezer West's constitution and by-laws.

Question: I am excited about the great things God is doing here, through *NEXT*. I want to make a portion of my gift from stored resources. Who should I contact to discuss a gift of stocks, investments, or property?

Answer: Giving in this manner can be a very tax-efficient way to give, and we'd love to help facilitate this gift for you and answer any questions. If you have any questions regarding *NEXT* gifts of marketable securities or real estate, you can contact our church office.

Question: I don't have any stock, investments, or property to make a stored resource gift. In addition to my regular generosity, is there any other way I can give?

There are many ways that God blesses each of us with treasures from Him. Think about one of your most expensive possessions besides your home or vehicle. Maybe it is a valuable coin collection gathering dust in your basement, a motorcycle you no longer ride, a piece of jewelry, flatware, or china—you inherited or received but no longer use it.

Perhaps you are an artist, hobbyist, or skilled craftsman. You might consider using your God-given talent to expand your generosity through *NEXT*. For instance, a seasoned woodworker might create and market something, committing the proceeds to God's glory through *NEXT*. Pray about this and consider how our Lord might be nudging you to commit stored resources you no longer need or use the talents He provides for His work through *NEXT*.

Question: Besides a commitment to giving, how can I participate in *NEXT*?

Answer: We want every member of the Ebenezer West family to commit to a spiritual journey with us, focused on transforming our hearts to respond to our generous God. This includes growing in your faith through personal devotion, prayer, Sunday morning worship and Bible study, and other small group study opportunities.

Question: I liked the initial clear communication of the *NEXT* vision and want to stay connected. How will I be updated on the progress of *NEXT* projects?

Answer: We will frequently update everyone on Ebenezer West's website and weekly email and provide periodic updates during weekend worship.

Question: As our congregation began to consider this effort, I was uncomfortable about us focusing so much attention on money. Can you help me get over my discomfort?

Answer: Do you realize Jesus spoke about generosity more than any other topic? As leaders, we fervently believe Jesus desires our hearts to be fully devoted to Him as we *NEXT* together so future generations continue to hear the Gospel boldly proclaimed here in Athens, GA. More than that, Jesus desires every aspect of our lives—our time, talents, and resources- to be sacrificially offered to Him so that more and more people know and follow Him. We believe our Lord desires everyone who loves Ebenezer West to generously embrace *NEXT* together here in Athens, across Clarke County, and even around the globe as we send faithful men and women out from this church on the mission as Christ's disciples where they work, serve, go to school, and even play. To God alone be the glory as we discover what's *NEXT*!