

The Future of Camp Crystal is BRIGHT!

We are thrilled to announce that 70 of the 100 acres of Crystal Conference Center has officially been placed under a Conservation Easement – an important step that both preserves God’s creation and benefits our ministry for years to come.

What is a Conservation Easement?

A Conservation Easement is a voluntary, legally binding agreement by which the landowner gives up certain rights – typically the right to subdivide or develop the land commercially – in order to protect the land’s natural, scenic, and environmental qualities. Importantly, even after the easement is in place, the land remains privately owned, and Crystal Conference Center retains ownership and control. Through this easement, we are committing to preserve the natural beauty, open space, and ecological integrity of our property forever – a permanent safeguard against future development or land-subdivision pressures.

Why This Matters – For Nature and for Our Community

- The easement ensures that our 70+ acres (and surrounding property) remain a green, peaceful retreat – protecting woods, open space, wildlife habitat, and the natural environment for future generations. This aligns with our calling to steward God’s creation.
- Even though we’ve restricted development rights, we still retain many of the land-use rights we need – so we can continue to use the camp responsibly in ways consistent with conservation.

In exchange for the conservation easement, the camp received \$625,000 from the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy and is in the final steps of securing an additional \$500,000 from the surrounding cottage owners!

How We Plan to Use Those Funds – Investing in the Future of Crystal

We are excited to share our plans for how those funds will be used to improve and enhance Crystal Conference Center in ways that benefit all of us:

- Making much-needed dining hall repairs, including a new roof and bathroom
- Improving the cabins for campers and other guests with new beds and bathrooms
- Constructing a trail system throughout the back 70 acres
- Addressing other much-needed repairs and updates across the camp property – helping us maintain and improve our facilities so Crystal can serve well for years to come.

Let’s give thanks for this blessing – and look forward with hope and joy to what God will do through Crystal in the years ahead!



To make a financial contribution and support of the Camp Crystal campaign, donations can be sent to the region at 401 W Jefferson St. Bloomington IL, 61701. Please indicate that the donation is for the Crystal Capital Campaign, and make all checks out to the Disciples of Christ (Michigan Region).