

Piano Campaign Frequently Asked Questions

"Why do we need a new piano? It sounds fine to me."

As has been stated, the current piano is over 50 years old and the mechanics inside the piano are no longer functioning well. But aside from the strings losing their resonance and having weakened sections, each key has over 100 tiny parts that have to work together to create the sound of one pitch. That means there are almost 10,000 moving parts on the piano. Some of these parts are simply wearing out and replacing them would cost much more money than the current monetary value of the piano. A piano frame can last 100 years or more, but it is the sum function of the inside parts that make a piano an instrument.

"Why do we need to spend so much money on a piano?"

The reality is that new professional grand (not baby grand) piano prices vary almost as much as cars and houses, going from \$20,000ish all the way to an extravagant \$500,000 or higher. But I will compare this in a more practical manner... Let's say you spend \$40.00 on a pair of decent shoes. The likelihood is that they will last about a year or two before the soles wear thin or the sides come apart, and then they need to be replaced. However, if you spend a little over \$100, many times those shoes could last you 8-10 years or longer. Likewise, the higher the quality of the piano, the longer it will last and more beautiful it will sound. A \$20K piano may last only 10 years before needing a ton of technical attention, and most of these pianos are made with lower quality, inconsistent parts while being machine built. Knowing this, the lower quality piano is not recommended. Higher quality materials and artisan workmanship cost more yes, but they add many years to the life of the instrument and present an exquisite tone noticeable even to most people who say they are not musical, though they do not have the words to explain why. Remember we have 6 months to raise funds, and whatever our total raised at the end of June, we will use that amount to find our instrument. If it is \$50,000 then a mid-range piano is what we will shop for, but if we reach higher amounts on or before June, then the congregation will be graciously blessed with an even better instrument. Truly, it would surprise me if people of KGPC would want to go through the process of piano fund raising and inflation shopping in another 10-15 years. (Piano prices raise at least 6-7% each year)

"I heard people are not giving to the church so they can give to the piano" ~

Let's be clear....no one is being asked to split their giving into pieces. Donations are only hoped for if folks have funds over and above what they pledged for the church budget...which is not being touched for the piano. A campaign by definition is a separate entity from the foundational church budget. This campaign idea is rare to KGPC, but quite normal in a lot of other churches. KGPC was so fortunate to have the sanctuary piano donated many years ago and the congregation has been able to just not think about it ever since. Now, there is a special opportunity for those who are able to contribute in the same way to the future music ministry and be a "collective donor".

"What about feeding the homeless and helping to serve our community?"

The wonderful thing about KGPC is that so many people support programs for the less fortunate in our area and beyond. In light of this, I would suggest a hint of caution in assuming that providing a quality instrument for worship will automatically default to not serving PIN, JCOC, or similar ministries, especially when many of the people who serve in or support the music ministry here also have a huge heart for helping the community. It is much more likely that **this is a Yes/And scenario** where both the music and service ministries benefit. In fact, a new instrument will allow us to bless the community even more through music in the form of community outreach and fundraising for service projects.

"Why now, when there are so many projects we are looking at for the church?"

It has taken almost 2 years to get to this point. The worship committee has questioned, researched, discussed, discerned and prayed heartily about this matter. Truly, God's timing is perfect, even though some wish we could have started the campaign earlier. Considering the condition of the current piano, waiting longer would not be prudent.