



CHURCH of the INCARNATION

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churchoftheincarnation.org

August 30, 2026

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

If you've attended services at Church of the Incarnation this summer, you likely noticed a change in atmosphere – namely, the lack of air conditioning! Last spring, we learned that our existing system, installed more than 70 years ago, is no longer functional. The Vestry has been working closely with our property management company to determine the best replacement system, and we are now seeking bids from contractors.

As a temporary fix, we've been using non-circular fans placed around the sanctuary. At first glance, they look a bit like robot sentinels! We've also kept the front doors of the church and the 35th Street double doors open during services to provide cross-ventilation.

While we don't yet have a final figure, we expect the new air-conditioning system to cost up to \$500,000. This kind of non-routine expense cannot be covered by our annual operating budget. Instead, we will need to draw from our investment funds, often referred to as the endowment.

The impact of such a large, unplanned withdrawal from our endowment is significant. To help cushion that impact, the Vestry has authorized a small parish-wide campaign to raise a portion of the funds needed. We have set a campaign goal of \$150,000 and are calling this new fundraising effort the **Keep It Cool Campaign**.

We are already off to a strong start. **Several members of the Vestry and clergy, along with some other parishioners, have pledged a total of \$97,500!** We hope you will join us in helping us reach the campaign goal.

A new air-conditioning system will help ensure that Incarnation remains a welcoming and comfortable place for our congregation to worship and for others to enjoy during open church hours, concerts, and special events. In addition, the new system will be a significant improvement in energy efficiency and environmental sustainability. For this reason, we will also be seeking grants that support energy-efficient building upgrades.

For those who participated in the Common Chord Campaign for the organ, we have a specific ask. Since the three-year fulfillment period for Common Chord pledges ends this year, we hope you will continue your generosity at the same annual rate for one more year. This means making a **Keep It Cool pledge equal to one-third of your Common Chord commitment**.

For example, if you pledged \$3,000 to the Common Chord Campaign and have been paying \$1,000 a year over three years, you could make a Keep It Cool pledge of \$1,000, payable in

2027. In other words, we are simply asking you to extend your Common Chord giving for one additional year to help keep Incarnation cool!

Pledges or gifts can be made by using the enclosed **Keep It Cool** pledge card and reply envelope, or by scanning this QR code:



With \$97,500 already pledged, **approximately \$52,500 remains to reach our \$150,000 campaign goal.** It would be especially helpful to reach that goal by year-end, when we expect to have a clearer picture of the actual project cost. We will provide periodic updates on both the project and the campaign.

Keep in mind, pledges toward the air-conditioning project are separate from those made to our annual Stewardship Campaign which will take place later this fall.

Let's keep up the momentum and *Keep It Cool!*

Thank you for your ongoing presence at Church of the Incarnation and for your generous support of our parish. And thank you for considering a pledge to the **Keep It Cool Campaign.**

In Christ,

The Rev. Adrian Dannhauser, Rector
Susan Ridgeway, Senior Warden
Christopher Strome, Junior Warden