



What's Next At
CAMP CONQUEST

equip . serve . build
Honoring the Past... Growing the Future.

From the Executive Director's desk

Friends,

Thank you for your interest in Camp Conquest. Thank you for the opportunity to update you on this unique ministry of evangelism and discipleship in the camp setting.

Supported by the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Camp Conquest offers Summer Camp Programs for children and teens as well as Parent/Child Events. Year-round, we partner together with other ministries to provide week-long children's programs, weekend youth group retreats, men's, women's, and church events.

The heart of our ministry is our summer camp program. Ministering to children ages 7 to 17, Camp Conquest offers age-specific programs that **provide each child with a safe, nurturing environment** where they can learn new skills and develop new friendships.



Every year more than 2,000 volunteers contribute more than 27,000 hours of time and service to make Camp Conquest a **place where you can hear the still, small voice of God, free from the distractions of everyday life.**

Today, we are faced with a rather significant distraction. **The septic system at camp is old and worn out.** Originally installed in 1960 and last updated in 1979, the leach bed system had a 20-year life expectancy. The Board and staff have been working diligently over the past 10 years to prepare the camp for the project that is before us today. We have taken the necessary steps to prolong the life of the current system while at the same time laying the groundwork for what is needed today—a replacement system.

Installing a new septic system is a very costly proposition. So far Camp Conquest has spent close to \$100,000 in engineering and testing fees just to get us through the permitting process. At the time of preparation of this letter, we are still working with township and state authorities to gain final approvals of our proposed system.

In May 2012, we will be launching the **Equip—Serve—Build** Campaign. We anticipate this project costing in the vicinity of \$400,000. It is the goal of the board to raise this money over a 2–3 year period. **Will you join with us in prayer and financial commitment for this project?**

Friends, together we must move forward. Ephesians 4:12 tells us that we have been “equipped for acts of service to the building up of the body of Christ.” In order to keep building the body, we *must* build the facility—and that starts today with replacing our failing septic system.

Please carefully consider what God would have you do to help meet this very necessary financial obligation before the camp. And please join with us in prayer as we walk down this path together. Thank you for your support of the ministry of evangelism and discipleship in the camp setting.

Serving with you at Camp,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael R. Gehlert".

Michael R. Gehlert
Executive Director



1959—Bob Sprecher purchases farm to start ranch for troubled boys

1960—Camping programs for Grace Brethren Churches began at Sprecher Farm

1960—First building, the current dining hall and staff lodge

1960—First week of Camp Conquest for Youth led by Pastor Bob Kern in New York

Answers to important questions

What happens if we do not upgrade the water treatment system?

Currently, the camp is pumping out our septic tank twice a week during the 10 weeks of summer camp. This is a costly expense that will only increase over time, as more frequent pumping will be necessary. In addition, the local authorities are aware of our problem and are working with us to resolve the issue. If we abandon our pursuit of a solution, these agencies can begin a process to force us into compliance or closure.

Are there any alternatives?

Yes, there are three options for us to consider.

- Do nothing now—see above. Loss of ministry.
- Put in a septic treatment plant—estimated installation costs in excess of \$800,000, with approximately \$40,000 annual maintenance fees.
- Follow the prescribed plan to install a system replacement—estimated cost to be \$400,000, with approximately \$12,000 annual maintenance fees.
- There are no cheaper alternatives allowed us by current regulatory agencies

Why is the cost so high?

Camp Conquest is in a beautiful location—rolling wooded hills, picturesque farmland, and pristine streams—or should we say Ecologically Sensitive (read, conservation lands). The camp is located in an area of the county where building and development are highly regulated due to the desire to preserve the natural beauty around us. Additionally, we are in a headwater area of the Chesapeake Watershed. Due to Lancaster County's high nitrate pollution of the Chesapeake Bay, regulations are arduous when installing a new wastewater treatment system.

How much money will be needed for the project?

Our research has led us to set a goal of \$400,000 for this project. Unfortunately, there are many variables along the way that could decrease or more likely increase our calculated target. For now, the board is confident that \$400,000 should be the budget amount for the installation of the proposed system.

What has been done so far?

Much work and planning have gone into this project. About 10 years ago, the board realized that we were going to be facing a significant issue in this area. Since that time, we made the following strategic decisions:

- Decreased our bed capacity from 180 to 144 so as to decrease septic flows.
- Made minor repairs to current septic lines to increase efficiency.
- Installed water saving fixtures in all building to decrease septic flows.
- Built Sprecher and Lutz lodges to increase operational revenues and shift contribution income to capital projects.
- Began pumping our septic tanks twice a week during peak seasonal usage.
- Raised \$20,000 to have a Topographical and Boundary Survey completed.
- Hired an engineering firm to begin the process of Land Development and Septic System planning and permitting research. Cost: \$100,000.
- Hired a fund-raising consultant to help equip board and staff to raise the funds for this project. Cost: \$20,000.



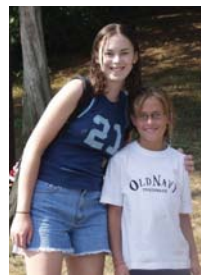
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1961—Camp Conquest held at Harvey Cedars Bible Conference

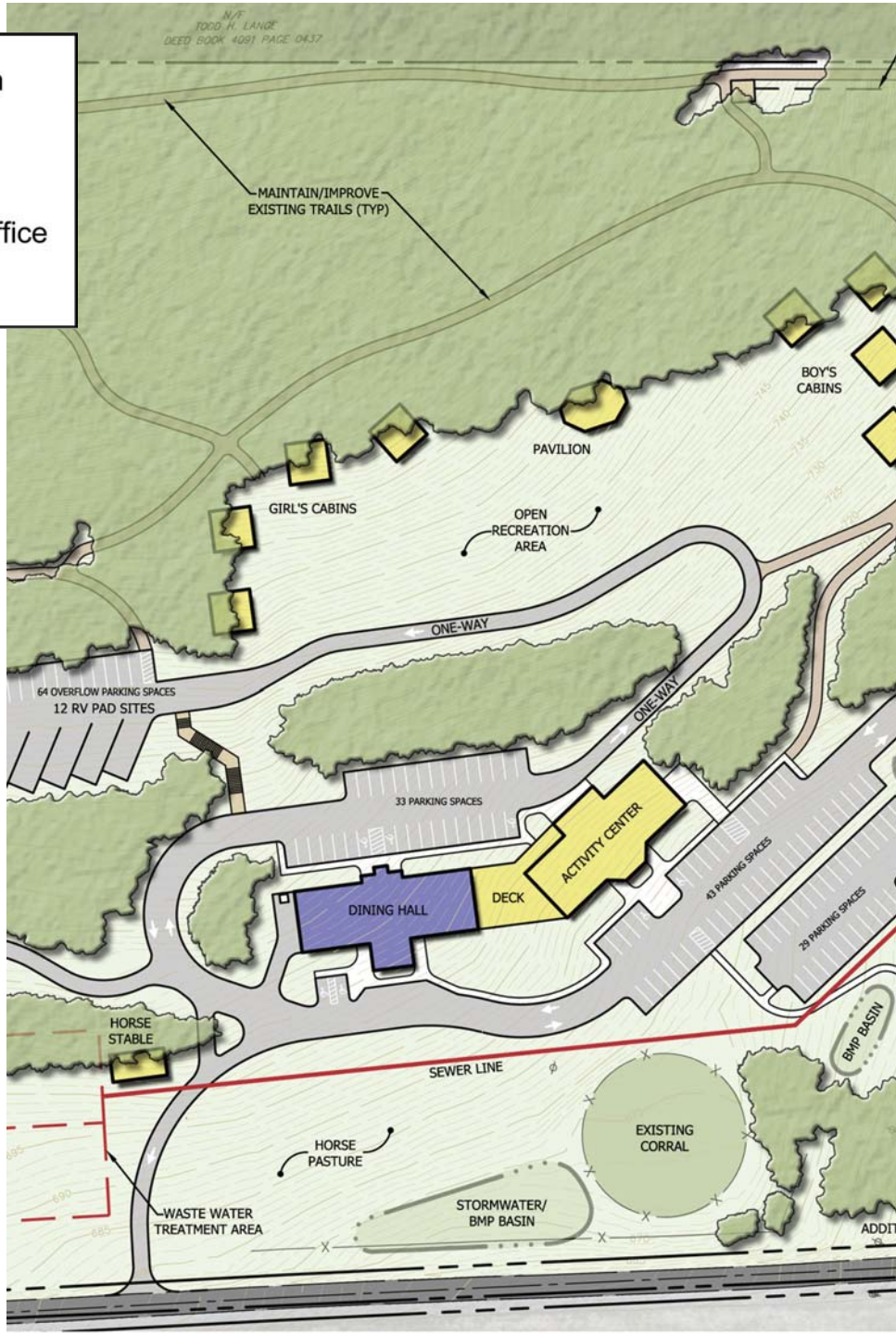
1962–1969—Camp Conquest held at French Creek State Park

1966—Tragic auto accident forces Sprecher family to move back into town

1966—Grace Brethren Church Center incorporated



	Phase 1 Waste Water System
	Phase 2 Dining Hall Options
	Phase 3 Day Camp Area
	Phase 4 Welcome Center / Office
	Future Possibilities



What's Next at Camp Conquest?

Do you see the Red Line on the Map? What's next for Camp Conquest is the replacement of our Septic System. But once that is done—then what?

Well then we can replace our too-small, too-old dining hall. We have three options shown on the map. They are just ideas at this point. Which one do you like?

Next comes a new bathhouse, pavilion, and volleyball court by the pool.

Converting the farm house to a welcome center and ministry office is next on the list

From there we started dreaming about future options—Ideas of increased ministry opportunities. Follow the Yellow areas of the map—see the back cover for more possibilities.



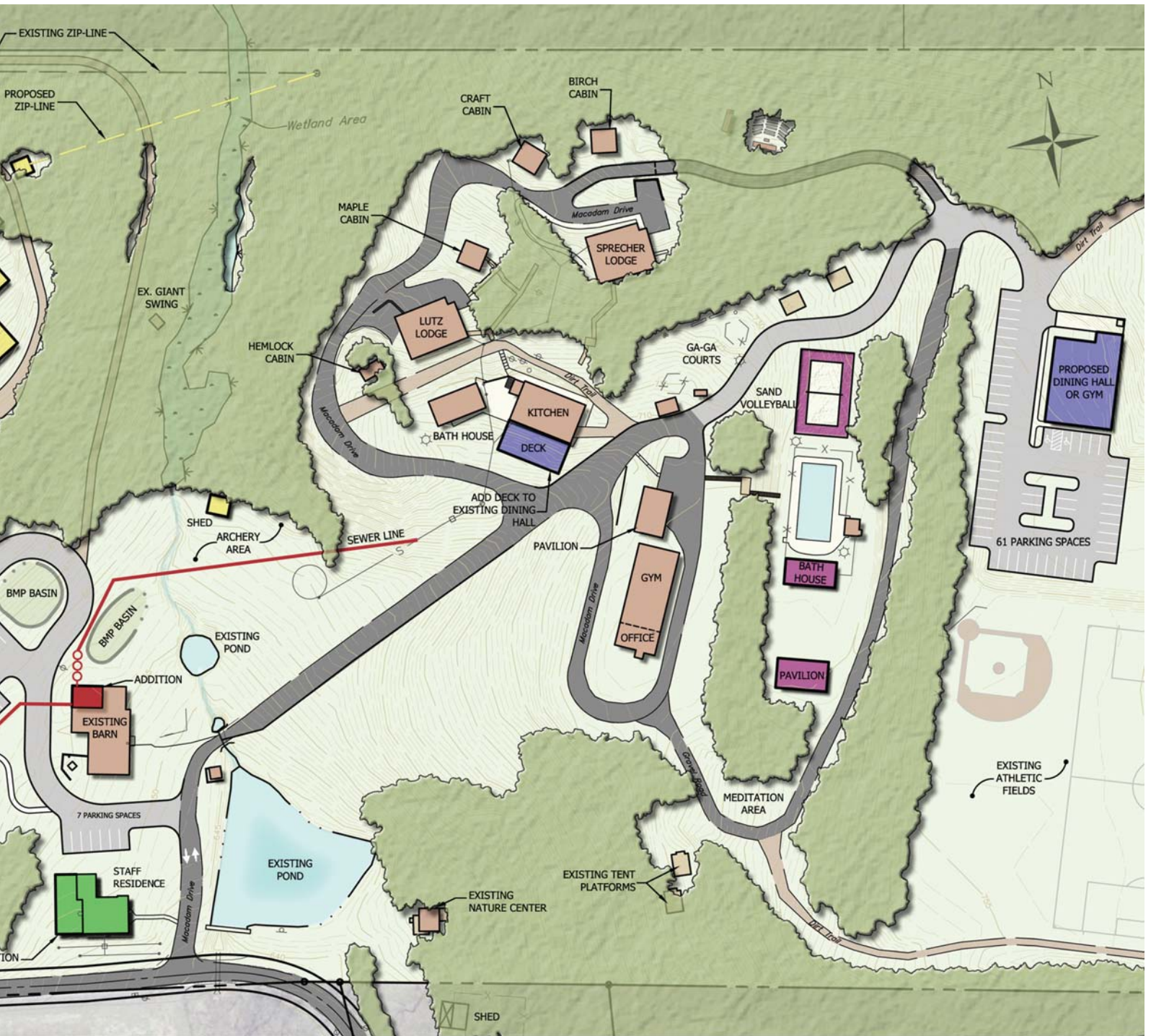
1967—Grace Brethren Retreat Center purchased the Sprecher farm

1970—Eight block cabins, bathhouse, and dining hall addition constructed for summer camp

1970—Camp Conquest found new home at Grace Brethren Retreat Center

1974—Chapel and additional cabins constructed

1977—Original pool installed when health department shut down pond swimming



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1981—Bob Lutz hired as site manager
1995—New swimming pool built

1999—Camp Conquest program merged with Grace Brethren Retreat Center

2000—Bob Lutz became first Executive Director, two additional staff hired



How you can be a part

The success of any endeavor ultimately rests in God, as well as in the response of God's people. We embrace this project with confidence that God has led us to this time and has given us our vision of what Camp Conquest can become.

Moving forward depends upon God's faithfulness and your generosity. Your financial commitment is a personal matter that only you can decide after reflection and prayer. Give according to your means and your faith. Give as God has given to you, knowing that you are a steward of God's gifts and an enthusiastic follower of Jesus Christ.



Give a windfall . . .

What do you receive that is "extra"? You might choose to give a portion of quarterly dividends or interest received. Another choice is to give a portion of annual tax refunds, bonuses, or inheritances you may receive.



Sell something! . . .

A significant gift may be no further away than a trip to your basement, attic, garage, or shed. We all have a lot of stuff packed away. What might you find that could be sold for a better cause? Unused jewelry, sporting goods, glassware, antiques, coin collections, decorations are a few of the items that could find a use to glorify the Lord.



Look at your assets . . .

You may choose to use an asset to fund a commitment. Some assets, such as stocks, farmland, vacation homes, or other property, may be transferred to Camp Conquest, resulting in a potential tax savings.



Leave a legacy . . .

If you would like to help continue the ministry after you are gone, please consider listing Camp Conquest in your will.



Break that Starbucks addiction! . . .

Is there one thing you spend money on now that you would be willing to sacrifice for the sake of being a part of our capital campaign? You might eat out one less time per week or month, wash your own car, vacation closer to home and give what you save on travel. Giving up one \$1.50 beverage per day doesn't sound like a big sacrifice, but it does add up. $\$1.50/\text{day} = \$10.50/\text{week} = \$546.00/\text{year} = \$1,638$ in three years. Or, start clipping coupons and donate the money you save.



2001—Pastor Bob Lutz died in an auto accident

2002—Michael Gehlert hired as the Executive Director

2004—Ken Keener hired as Director of Recruitment

2006—Additional property and housing purchased

Frequently asked questions

How will we make our contributions?

We will be given the opportunity to make Faith Promises, gift commitments that represent a sacrifice to support God's work at the camp. The total amount you pledge may be given over a two-year period. Prayerfully decide on the Faith Promise amount you believe God will enable you to give. Consider all the different ways in which to give. A commitment card will be available upon which you may record your decision.

Are Faith Promise contributions tax deductible?

Yes, if you itemize charitable contributions on your federal tax returns.

Can I give as I am able without signing a Faith Promise card?

Yes, you can do so. If a significant number of supporters choose this approach, however, we will not be able to proceed with the project at this time. Understandably, a good knowledge of expected contributions is required to move forward with the project in a responsible fashion.

Can I give assets other than cash?

Yes, there are other ways to give. See this brochure for some ideas. Place will be provided on the Faith Promise card to list items you will donate or sell, and forward the proceeds. Assistance to liquidate items is also available.

When will the Campaign begin?

The Kick-off will take place in May 2012. Giving will begin in June 2012 through May 2015. Contributions may be made monthly, quarterly, annually, or in whatever segments work for you.

What will happen if we do not raise enough money to completely pay for the project?

We would have to consider incurring debt, though we strongly prefer not to do so. We would also have to continue fundraising beyond three years. The project is not an option for Camp Conquest to continue.

How much am I expected to give?

This is a personal decision for you to make only after prayerful thought, keeping in mind God's gifts to you. The information provided in this brochure is designed to assist you in making this personal determination.

"You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully. And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to give to share with others."

2 Corinthians 9:7-8 (New Living Translation)



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2007—Sprecher Lodge built

2009—Lutz Lodge built

2011—*Equip, Serve, Build*

prayer campaign to build new septic system launched

2012—*Equip, Serve, Build*

financial campaign launched to build new septic system





- Phase 1 Waste Water System
- Phase 2 Dining Hall Options
- Phase 3 Day Camp Area
- Phase 4 Welcome Center / Office
- Future Possibilities



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MASTER PLAN

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