



# LIGHT THE WAY

CAMPAIGN FOR UNITED CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



**UNITED**  
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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How exciting to be a part of the UCA Community, one that desires that every stakeholder grow in love for Christ and others, enjoy excellent, life-changing learning opportunities via an incredibly talented and caring staff. I truly wish every child and young adult could experience the UCA Difference!

Evan Dalrymple,  
Head of School



## United Christian Academy to Light the Way

Our **Light the Way Campaign** is a bold journey into securing our future as a community in faith education – shining a light on the path forward for United Christian Academy.

The image of light is central to this campaign, it ties our past to our present and looks eagerly to the future. God’s light is the center of our community. We invite God’s Spirit to light the way for our young people as we educate them to face an ever-changing world sustained by their faith.

Our students face a world that has changed significantly since the doors to our first legacy school opened over sixty years ago. The opportunities and challenges of the 21st century have unfolded at a dizzying pace. The evolution of technology has a significant impact on our consciousness; misunderstanding and lack of communication amongst us threaten opportunities for unity. And, our children must learn to rise above the noise and the clutter.

Our students inspire me each and every day. Their creativity, passion for learning, and willingness to take on new challenges gives me great hope for the future of our school and our community. This campaign will shine a light on their inspiration and give them the facilities and opportunities they need to continue to learn and grow.

After the completion of a rigorous strategic planning process, our plan - our way forward, outlines the steps we will take to address both opportunities and challenges. The decision to relocate UCA to Lakeville and build a new state-of-the-art campus was not simple. A prayerful decision to re-envision our school and place the needs of our students at the forefront of that plan was our priority.

**Light the Way** is a \$100-million-dollar capital campaign, the largest undertaking of its kind in UCA history. This brochure will tell you more about what we hope to accomplish and why your investment is critical to our success. We are an educational community of faith. And we believe that together, we can accomplish great things for our children.

Centered on the certainty of Christ, UCA is a place of hope for inspired servant leaders. Please join me in ensuring that UCA continues to prepare and send our dedicated, thoughtful, ethical young people out into a world that needs them.

**Evan Dalrymple**  
**Head of School & Executive Director**  
*Light the Way Campaign*  
United Christian Academy Foundation

# Lighting the Way to our Future

Independent schools offer additional benefits that many parents seek for their children. But, independent Christian schools incorporate Christ-centered faith in its fabric. Christ is included in mission, values, and curriculum.



We believe that it is the mutual respect and concern shown in our staff/student relationships and the ability to respond to the changing needs of each student.

**That is the UCA difference.**

We challenge our students' capabilities through academics, arts, athletics, and spiritual formation. A UCA transformational education prepares our students for a lifetime of learning.

**That is the UCA difference.**

Our students learn how to learn. That is the ability to pursue and persist in learning, to organize one's own learning, including through and critical thinking skills.

**That is the UCA difference.**

We face the challenge of preparing and educating talented young people from all walks of life. Our students traditionally become community leaders in public service, the arts, business, the law, faith leadership, and medicine. UCA students will ultimately become leaders of tomorrow's world.

**That is the UCA difference.**

When we asked a graduate remembers about their UCA experience, most respond with a story of a favorite teacher who influenced their life.

**That is the UCA difference.**

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**I am the light of the world: The one that follows me shall not walk in darkness, But shall have the light of life.**

**John 8:12**

## Today, UCA asks these essential questions:

- What is the role of UCA at present?
- What makes UCA different from other independent schools in Minnesota?
- What are the UCA differences?
- How do we prepare our students to stand on their Christian world-view?
- How do we inspire students to become ethical servant leaders?

The value of a UCA education is priceless for those seeking to develop academically and grow in their faith – putting our faith into action. Facilities are the framework within which education occurs. For the benefit of our students' learning environment, we must enhance our framework. UCA's vision for the future is based on our mission and our desire for excellence. Our passion and commitment are to be the best independent, Christian school we can be.

UCA is preparing our students to be leaders for the future, and we must develop them in a way that speaks to excellence in every facet of UCA. This, of course, includes our facilities. The need for expansion has become critical. With the growth of our UCA educational community, we recognize the need for better facilities to keep up with the demand for the unique Christian educational experience we provide.



# Mission

United Christian Academy provides transformational Christ-centered education by cultivating the mind, engaging the heart, and equipping students for action, all to the glory of God!

## A Bright Future - The Impact of Philanthropy

“The word philanthropy means the “love of humankind.” To be a philanthropist and invest in the greater good is to embody that spirit. Philanthropy strengthens our community, and it is the spark that allows the United Christian Academy to fulfill the dreams of possibility. We are stronger when we work together to enhance our community for all. Working together, we will see United Christian Academy grow and flourish, continuing its strong commitment to the community at large and residents of the Lakeville area.”

**Evan Dalrymple**  
**Head of School & Executive Director**  
*Light the Way Campaign*  
United Christian Academy Foundation

# UCA's New Campus

For more than 40 years, a total of 104 years of educational experience between the three legacy schools, we have served families from 22 communities and more than 40 different churches and all denominations across the Twin Cities. UCA programs are centered around two elemental precepts: (1) Discipleship in Christ, and (2) Preparation of a generation to be a shining light in the Kingdom of God.

How and where we build our new campus matters and was not taken without prayerful consideration and study. The Lakeville area has been rated third on the list of the Five Best Cities for Families in Minnesota with consideration of many factors, including the low crime rate, excellent healthcare, and educational opportunities. Our new Lakeville campus will allow UCA to connect our entire community so that students, Pre-K to Grade 12, find joy in friendship, inspiration from different perspectives, and the light within each other.

From the youngest student to the most experienced teacher, our learning culture is built one child, one relationship at a time. Children are maturing into adults under the pressure of perceived societal norms and cultural expectations—all rapidly compounded by the pace of technology. As a result, it has become essential for us to examine the quality of our relationships and return once more to connect on a human level.

## UCA Light the Way Campaign:

- Capital campaign to fund the building on the new 45-acre campus in Lakeville, Minnesota.
- Campus buildings comprise approximately 210,000 square feet for full-service pre-school/daycare and K-12 activities and programs.
- The new campus designed with ministry at its core, considering academics, activities, and services. The ultimate student capacity is 1,600 students, designed by industry leading architects and builders.

- Careful consideration of aesthetics, functionality, and foresight will be woven into the physical plant, particularly in consideration of event planning, security, and technology.
- Create welcoming spaces that enhance learning, foster positive relationships, and strengthen our role as pioneer and leader in Pre-K - Grade 12 education.
- Create programs and events that strengthen a culture of collaboration and community so that all students, faculty, and staff feel they belong.
- The facility will be state of the art – safe and secure.

- Build innovative new spaces to house relevant academic programs that will prepare UCA students to serve where they are most needed.
- Create new gathering spaces where both campus and community can come together to share ideas and vision.
- Build an athletic complex and sports fields that promote and support health and wellness and teach student to lead on the field, translating to leadership in life.
- Build an aviation program that can help support the growing need for additional pilots.



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So let us not grow weary in doing what is right for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.  
Galatians 6:9



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You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deed and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16



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Christian education has never been more important for families in our community than today. Developing young leaders who are growing in knowledge, wisdom, and character is an amazing ministry that I love being a part of. Our students are being encouraged daily to stand for truth and love. What an amazing impact these future leaders will make by living out that noble calling. Investing in the vision of UCA will directly impact our culture as we fight for the hearts and minds of our youth. This is the UCA Difference.

Chad Peters - UCA High School Dean

# Light the Future of Learning

The heartbeat of UCA is its staff, dedicated to quality instruction, mentorship, individual and collective spiritual development, and relational unity within the body. Responsible leadership requires that each staff member, regardless of station or position, be positioned for the greatest success.



UCA will continue to recruit and retain motivated faculty and staff and empower them to explore the best models of teaching and learning so they may inspire the next generation of students. Teachers encourage students best when they are inspired. When teachers who are lifelong learners empower students to want to make a difference in this community, they demonstrate respect in a way that can shape and change lives.

At UCAs, teaching and learning are inextricably linked. When teachers and coaches encourage students to pursue their purpose, they unlock our students' potential and awaken their minds and spirits.

There is no limit to how much good teachers can inspire. Inspired leaders inspire students.

We must attract diverse, committed, and creative instructors committed to Christian principles to do this work well. We seek to retain talented professionals who have the motivation and skills to inspire confidence and elicit the goodness and talents of each child.

## UCA Light the Way Campaign:

- Create a place for teaching and learning to enhance a culture of caring, collaboration, creativity, and risk-taking among our faculty to elevate student learning and engagement.
- Implement professional development programs and evaluation protocols to address all facets of faculty work.
- Stimulate meaningful growth and career satisfaction to enable the school to retain outstanding faculty.
- Partner with colleges, technical schools, business, industry, and institutes to promote innovation, research, and interdisciplinary learning.
- Raise endowment funds to support excellence in teaching and strengthen the employee compensation package.

# Embracing the Community



UCA's commitment to community extends beyond the classroom and our campus and into the greater Lakeville area. We will welcome students from across the region and make our education more financially accessible. Through the Light the Way Campaign, we are committed to bolstering our tuition assistance programs and supporting talented local students by building an endowment.

The financial barrier to a United Christian Academy education poses a significant challenge for many students who have demonstrated ability and potential. An endowment is a school's financial security, underwriting quality programs, facilities, and faculty.

UCA currently lags behind our peers in endowment per student. Along with building a new campus, we must build a robust endowment that will enable us to decrease our reliance on tuition dollars to support our operations and move UCA toward a strong financial model.



## UCA Light the Way Campaign:

- Establish an endowment to strengthen our generous commitment to tuition assistance to support our families.
- Contribute to an endowed fund to invest in our educators, drive programs and services to create excellence.
- Build partnerships with local organizations for facilities use; return a portion of revenue back into the community through a variety of means.
- Result in a positive economic impact on the Lakeville area communities with a distinctive constituency who desire UCA offerings.
- Continue to educate our community about the importance of philanthropy in enriching the school's mission and educational excellence.
- Create opportunities for families to establish endowed scholarships and program funds.

Through the **Light the Way Campaign**, we will now be able to give back to the Lakeville area communities by expanding our current educational partnerships, developing new relationships with area arts, community groups, youth-centric athletic programs, and provide new opportunities for our students.

The performing arts center can also host a variety of engagements such as a speakers' bureau series and visiting artist and author events, educational and business-centric conferences, while continuing United Christian Academy's relationship with the local community.



# Program Offerings at the New UCA



The UCA leadership team has spent a significant amount of time addressing the needs of the present generation of students, existing educational opportunities and options in specific geographical areas, and potential educational program offerings that launch graduates toward their best future career opportunities.

The new 210,000sf campus buildings provide full-service pre-school/daycare and K-12 activities and programs with an ultimate capacity for up to 1,600 students completion a in multi-phase campus development plan.

Athletics and a multi-use facility complex designed for third-party shared use will generate revenue and expand community partnerships.

## Key Components

- **Pre-K** - Emphasis on basic personal/educational skills, early development of an understanding of God and creation via classroom instruction/chapel
- **K - 5** - Emphasis on age-appropriate math/literacy skills (Additional assistance through the Groves Literacy) introduction to, and instruction in, social studies/civics, science, and specialty courses (Physical Education, Fine Arts, Foreign Language) with continued personal immersion in Biblical truth/values through classroom instruction/chapel, individual classroom mission/service opportunities, SPED support available

- **Middle School** - (Grades 6 - 8) Continued advancement in core subject areas (Math Science, Language Arts, Social Studies/Civics) with determined, grade level Bible-based courses/discipleship training, expanded specialty courses (Fine Arts, Physical Education, Foreign Language) with the addition of purpose-specific Mission/Service programs
- **High School** - (Grades 9 - 12) Subject-specific, MN/ACSI accredited courses (Math, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies/Civics) with determined, basic-advanced Bible-based, Biblical worldview courses, discipleship training. Expanded specialty course offerings, PSEO and Associates Degree offering through Bethel University and University of Northwestern
- **Performing Arts Center** - Fine Arts - Choral/Instrumental/Art
- **Athletic Complex and Sports Fields Athletics** - Multiple/Seasonal, sub varsity/Varsity Sports
- **Aviation Program** - Nationally recognized - in partnership with, MAC, Avi8te Flight School, Flying Cloud, and Lakeville Airlake Airport
- **True Calling Trade Center** - TC2 - Pre-collegiate/Collegiate Courses with emphasis on popular trade careers, including Coding/Technology, Robotics, Culinary Arts, Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, Automotive, Metal Craft, Vocational Agriculture - Partnerships with Lakeville Area, Chamber of Commerce, Local Trade-focused Colleges) i.e., DCTC.



# Light the Way, the \$100 Million Campaign for United Christian Academy

Following extensive study and thought, United Christian Academy has embarked on the Light the Way, the \$100 million Campaign for United Christian Academy. It is an ambitious fundraising project that will help us respond to the challenges of building a new campus. Guided by the vision of our strategic planning, this Campaign is the vehicle by which United Christian Academy will travel from an exceptional past into an even more promising and secure future.

## Campaign Elements

Development plans for the multi-phased project include:

- A new academic building will allow us to accommodate up to 1,600 students.
- Athletic Complex, Sports, and Playing Fields.
- A multi-use theater seating 750 patrons.
- Trades Building and Aviation Center include an aviation program that can help support the growing need for additional pilots.
- Welcoming spaces that enhance learning, foster positive relationships, and strengthen our role as pioneers and leaders in Pre-K - Grade 12 education.

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This is our family's second year at UCA. All four of our kids jumped in and felt at home there in a very short amount of time. As a parent, it was such an encouragement to know that my kids immediately felt like they were in a place where they could belong. I was also able to find community at UCA through volunteering, attending sporting events, and prayer groups. I have been so impressed by the teachers, staff, and other families who are all like-minded in pursuing education with a Christian worldview.

**- Crystal Vander Heiden - Parent**



### Summary of Needs - \$100 Million

Land	\$ 4,400,000
Site Prep and Utilities	\$ 5,600,000
Campus Academic Building/ Commons	\$ 55,000,000
Pre-K	\$ 7,000,000
Athletics - Gym Complex	\$ 11,000,000
Multi-Sport Stadium/Plaza	\$ 3,500,000
Competition/Practice Fields	\$ 5,000,000
Fine Arts Center/Auditorium	\$ 8,000,000
True Calling Trades Center	\$ 3,000,000
Play Areas	\$ 400,000
Furniture and Equipment	\$ 4,500,000
Parking Lots	\$ 2,000,000
Landscaping/Lawns	\$ 1,000,000
Endowment	\$ 10,000,000



I am a senior at UCA and will attend college next year to major in Ministry. Thanks to UCA I feel not only encouraged but equipped to fully serve Christ in all that I do. I have learned so much from my teachers who care about me and my relationship with Christ. I have had the opportunity to learn from my like-minded classmates as well as those older, and younger than me. The UCA community is so special and unique! The beauty of the UCA difference is that our community is growing.

**- Gracie Goetz - UCA student**



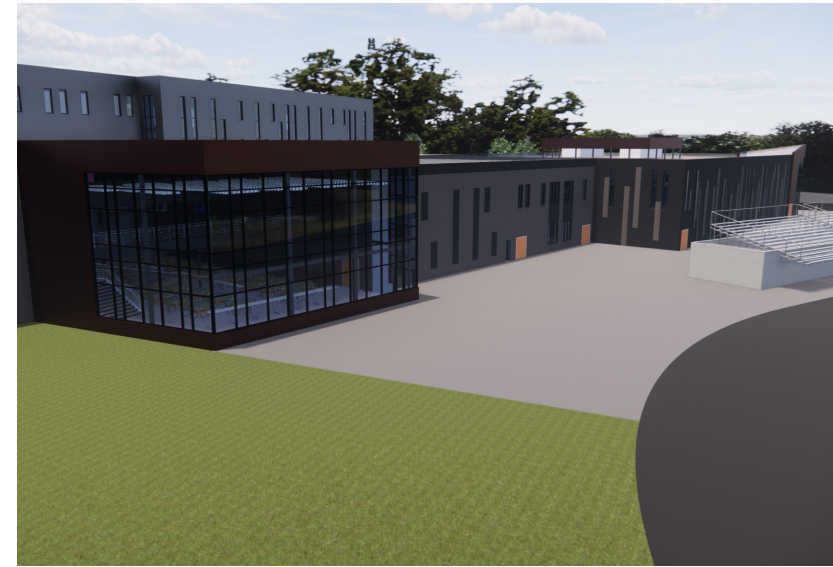
## Academic K-12 Building

A flexible workforce needs to imagine and implement solutions to diverse problems is critical. UCA strives to create programs, projects, and spaces where students can tap into their unlimited potential. The new academic building will allow us to accommodate up to 1,600 students in state-of-the-art academic building.

Instructional classroom spaces are designed to accentuate each program offered, unique to the subject area and the physical location on campus. Core and elective classrooms will be designed to be maintained for contemporary instructional practices subject to adaptability to future generations of technology development. In addition, classrooms and alcoves will be designed to house and showcase artifacts, symbols, documents, and student-generated work celebrating achievement in subject-specific areas.

## True Calling™: Trades Building and Aviation Center

The **Aviation program** will take center stage among a variety of “**True Calling Trades Center or TC2**” programs offered to a new generation of “essential” craftsman, including robotics, animation, coding, graphic design, carpentry, engineering (creation and manipulation), plumbing, agriculture, electrical, welding, and artisan programs. Expansion of program offerings will depend on monitored participation in each area of interest. Space in the trade center will be adjusted to meet program participation numbers and materials needs.

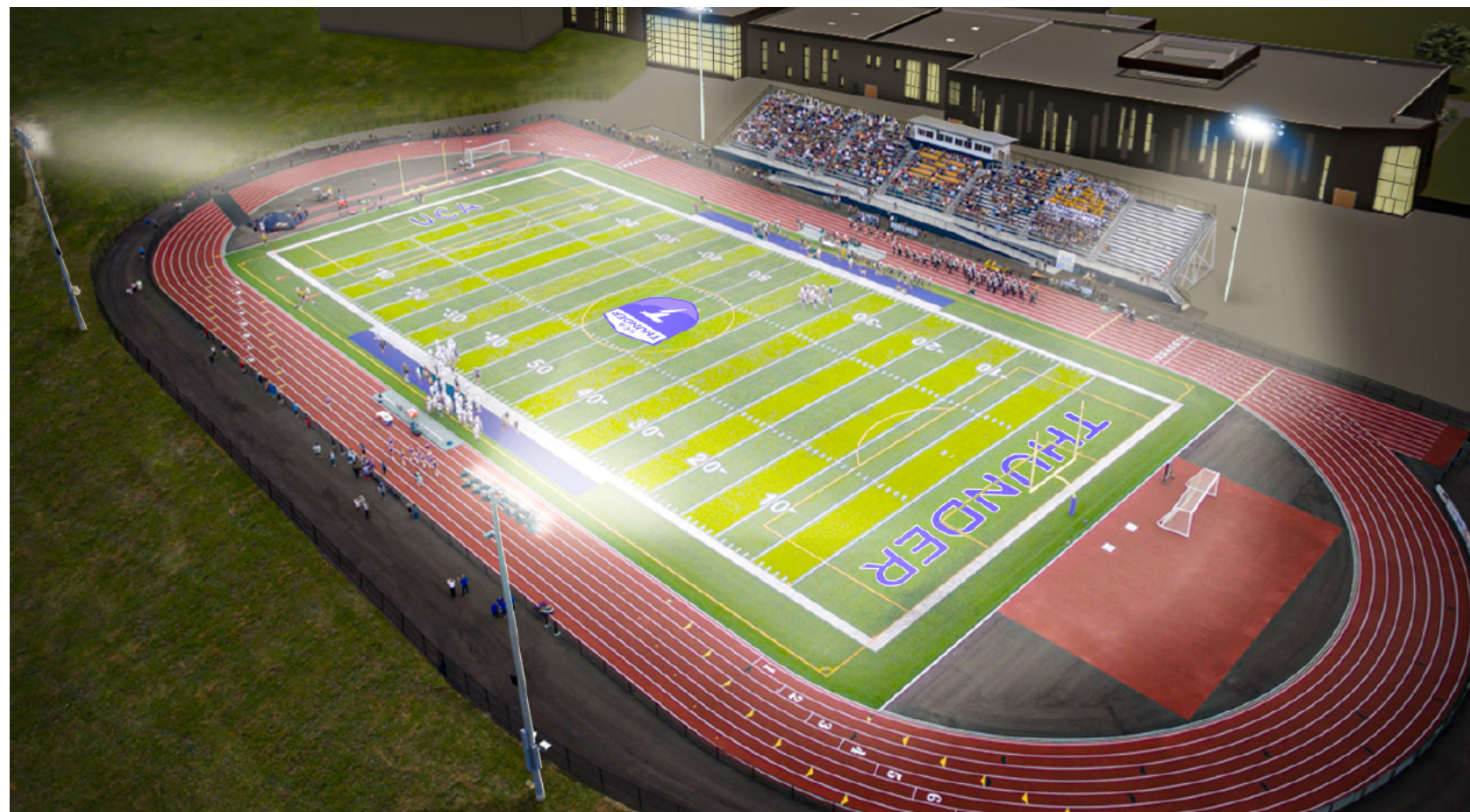


## Performing Arts Center

Inspiring young people to dream, create, and innovate is a core principle of UCA. Our arts programs prepare students to take their creativity and use it to build their future, chart their path, and follow their dreams. UCA is helping shape leaders who will change the world with their vision, passion, and creativity. Development of courses will consider academic and spiritual development values built into course descriptions and curriculum choices.

The new Performing Arts Center will speak to this need. It has been designed as a multi-use theater seating 750 patrons for productions, concerts, public speaking and debate, talent nights, and special lectures. In addition, the center will provide studio, vocal, and instrumental practice facilities, a black box theater, and various specialty art environments, including photography, sculpture, drawing/painting, graphic design, and animation.

Collaboration with the Lakeville area community will allow for additional events throughout the year.



## Athletic Complex, Sports and Playing Fields

Beyond physical strength, athletic programs teach teamwork, sportsmanship, and strategic thinking. It is crucial for students searching for athletic success combined with innovative education to have access to quality facilities that support their passions.

The new championship facilities will allow us to build on outdoor sports: baseball, football, soccer, cross country, track and field, while the Gymnasium Complex will accommodate volleyball, basketball, badminton and all other-school activities. The facilities will exceed the Minnesota State High School League standards allowing UCA to host sports events.

# Light the Way- Transforming Lives

Since the school's founding, United Christian Academy students grow into their God-given potential through excellence in education. Creating lifelong learners, leaders, and friends.

The \$100 million Light the Way Campaign gives us opportunity to invest in the transformational changes needed to achieve our vision of creating a complete educational experience for all our students, teachers, and families on a single campus.

Today, we invite individuals, small businesses, corporations, foundations, and others who have given so generously in the past to join us as we build on our strong foundation of excellence and quality Christ-centered education and programs.

Please join with us on this journey to revolutionize the learning experience. Help us celebrate our history of achievement. Share in our excitement about the promise of possibilities. Assist us as we build on the UCA difference. Step forward with your financial support to safeguard our work to create and sustain a bright future for our students.

As we 'Light the Way, we invite your partnership in developing 21st-century leaders. Included in this brochure is an outline of our campaign, which involves capital projects and the growth of endowment funds that will not only support professional development for our faculty but increase our scholarship endowment, ensuring that all qualified students will benefit from a United Christian Academy education.



There has never been a more exciting time in the history of United Christian Academy. God has made our mission clear. UCA's mission to light the world with Christ-centered leaders has never been more important.

To ensure that we fulfill our true promise for future generations, we seek the interest, involvement, and support of all who care about the future of young people and our world. This brochure will tell you more about what we plan to do and why your investment is critical to our success.

Our future is bright, and our course is clear. An exciting journey lies ahead as together we prepare our students for a life of faithfulness and service.

Please join us and Light the Way.

**Ryan Kotula**  
Light the Way Campaign Chair

**Traci Kotula**  
UCA, Board Chair

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There has never been a more exciting time in the history of United Christian Academy. God has made our mission clear. UCA's mission to light the world with Christ-centered leaders has never been more important.

**Traci Kotula -**  
UCA Board Chair



# The Grace of Giving

Every family is integral to our success. Therefore, UCA asks that you prayerfully consider how your generosity can reflect your gratitude for God's gifts. We know that a pledge will be a challenge for some of our UCA families, but every family should make a sacrificial pledge that entails sacrifice from your family's budget.

## Your Gift

Your gift can make all the difference in the success of the Light the Way campaign for United Christian Academy Center. In return for financial support, you may take satisfaction in the knowledge that your generosity will have a positive impact. To learn more about how you can be part of this historic campaign, please contact one of the campaign volunteers or the Head of School.

An outright donation can be used immediately to help secure United Christian Academy's future. Gifts of cash appreciated securities, stocks, bonds, and IRA are options for outright gifts.

All gifts are tax-deductible, and United Christian Academy Center is recognized as a fully qualified, not-for-profit organization under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. EIN 88-1016660



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**But just as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness, and your love for us - see also that you excel in this grace of giving.**

**II Corinthians 8:7**

## Naming Opportunities

There are ways to associate the name of family, company, or respected person with a program or building at the new campus. The campaign staff can assist you in writing an endowment description that directs the proceeds of your gift to a particular program at UCA. This campaign has many naming opportunities and the opportunity to provide lasting remembrance to a family member.

Commemorative opportunities will include named spaces, program funds, and donor recognition. You may wish to permanently associate your name with the United Christian Academy or honor a family member, friend, or colleague. A list of naming opportunities is available for your consideration. Campaign staff will assist you in determining a suitable form of lasting remembrance.





**Thank You!**

We are a robust community of God’s light. Together we are enthusiastic evangelists, joyful worshipers, serious learners, self-giving servants in the community, powerful proclaimers of the Living Word, and good stewards of a magnificent school that was built with the generous gifts of others. It is now time to let our light shine so brightly that God’s grace will continue to illuminate the new UCA campus.

This campaign will succeed one light at a time, one gift at a time. Thank you for helping us Light the Way.



**Light the Way Campaign Cabinet**

- Ryan Kotula – Campaign Chair
- Bob Reese – Vice Chair, Legacy Family Division
- Rod Eriksmoen – Vice Chair, UCA Family Division
- Robert Erickson – Vice Chair, Philanthropic Families
- Doug Loeffler – Vice Chair, Trade Partners
- Bob Bayer – Vice Chair, Faith Community
- Dave Oswald – Vice Chair, Lakeville Community
- Justin Hanratty – At-Large Member
- Traci Kotula – UCA Board Chair
- Evan Dalrymple – Head of School

**Light the Way Campaign Honorary Chairs**

- Dave Andersen
- Deborah Andersen
- Reverend Bill Bohline
- Reverend Paul Marzahn
- Michael Baumann
- Brad Paulson

**United Christian Academy Board**

- Traci Kotula – Board Chair
- Rod Eriksmoen
- Cory Emberland
- Sandy Nichol
- Bob Reese
- Ryan Spinti
- Jared Vinar
- Evan Dalrymple – Head of School

**United United Christian Academy Foundation**

- Ryan Kotula – President
- Evan Dalrymple
- Rod Eriksmoen
- Justin Hanratty
- Bob Reese



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Her children rise  
and call her blessed.

Proverbs 31:38







# LIGHT THE WAY

CAMPAIGN FOR UNITED CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



**Light the Way Campaign**

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