Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- What is the campaign goal?
  - The fundraising goal is $800,000 to cover renovation of major spaces, including furnishings and art.

- Are there renderings of the project I can see?
  - While we do not yet have drawings from the architect, we expect them later this year.

- Is the congregation borrowing money for this project?
  - The Board has expressed a strong preference not to go into debt, unless it is to bridge short-term cash flow needs.

- How much are you asking me to contribute?
  - We are asking you to contribute an amount that is significant to you, something that would be extraordinary in your philanthropic commitments.

- Would this encompass my regular annual contribution or dues?
  - No; this would be a special contribution in addition to your annual contribution, which goes toward regular operating expenses of the Temple.

- How much are others giving?
  - Of course, others’ gift amounts are confidential. Every gift matters to the project.

- May I contribute to one particular part of the project?
  - Because of the comprehensive scope and the interdependence of the various components, we strongly prefer to consolidate all contributions to the total project. We are glad, however, to align the recognition for your contribution with the portion of the project that is most meaningful to you.

- Can I pledge over a period of time?
  - Certainly. You can pay over a period of three years or less. You may download a pledge form here.

- Can I contribute stock or mutual fund shares?
• Of course. We can get instructions to you on how to transfer securities. Please contact Kathy Douglas, Sinai Temple Administrator at stoffice@sinaitemplecu.org or 217-352-8140.

• Can I make a gift from my donor advised fund or private foundation?
  o Yes, but you will want to use a different commitment form. Private foundations and donor advised funds are prohibited by IRS rules from paying pledges or legally binding commitments of their donors.

• I’m older than 70 ½ years. I’ve heard something about making gifts from my IRA. Do you know anything about that? Can I do that for this project?
  o Absolutely. You may make a “qualified charitable distribution” from your IRA to Sinai Temple Renovation Project. The distribution must go directly from your IRA account to Sinai Temple; it cannot come to you first. These qualified charitable distributions are excluded from your taxable income yet still count toward your minimum required distribution, up to $100,000 in such distributions per year.
  o You may use this form to request a qualified charitable distribution to Sinai Temple Renovation Fund from your IRA administrator.

• May I make a contribution today?
  o Of course! Please make your check payable to Sinai Temple Renovation Fund. You may drop it off at the Sinai Temple office or mail it to Sinai Temple, 3104 W. Windsor Road, Champaign, IL 61822. Thank you so much for your early investment in this important project for our congregation.