

**Meeting Packet  
for the Called Meeting  
of the Presbytery of Des Moines**



**April 2, 2016**

**Hosted by  
Cottage Grove Covenant Council  
Cottage Grove Presbyterian Mission Center  
Des Moines, Iowa**



## **B – COTTAGE GROVE COVENANT COUNCIL REPORT**

**April 2, 2016**

The Operations Team of the Cottage Grove Covenant Council presents the following motions for consideration:

### **SALE OF THE BUILDING**

#### **Motion 1:**

*We move that the Presbytery of Des Moines approve the sale of the Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church real property now owned by the Presbytery to Cornerstone Church of Ames, IA, or its assignee, for a purchase price of \$240,000, and upon the terms and conditions set forth in the Offer to Purchase Real Estate and Acceptance dated March 17, 2016, executed by Cornerstone as buyer and by the Presbytery as Seller. The Offer is subject to Presbytery approval. Further, the Moderator/President and the Stated Clerk/Secretary or other officers of the Presbytery are authorized to execute such documents and take such further action as they deem necessary and appropriate to facilitate the closing of the sale, with advice from legal counsel and from the Cottage Grove Operations Team.*

### **PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE**

Please note: The following two motions reflect a revision of the original Motion 2 noted in the CALL TO A SPECIAL MEETING.

#### **Motion 2:**

*We move to allocate proceeds from the sale of the Cottage Grove Mission Center building in the following manner:*

- *Pay back to the Knox Knolls fund the dollars spent on the Mission Center.*
- *Pay back to the Presbytery's Operating Budget the Mission Center dollars spent from the 2015 budget and the first four months of 2016.*

#### **Motion 3:**

*We move that the Presbytery Leadership Council shall appoint a committee to recommend to the Presbytery how to use the remaining funds from the sale of the Cottage Grove Mission Center for the missional purposes of the Presbytery at the August meeting of the Presbytery.*

# THE COTTAGE GROVE STORY

## IN THE BEGINNING

Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church was formed in 1889, just eight years after Drake University was founded northwest of the city of Des Moines. In 1917 the main portion of the current Cottage Grove church building was constructed by Clinton P. Shockley, an influential architect from Waterloo, Iowa. It was built in the Classical Revival style as part of the City Beautiful Movement at the turn of the 20th century. The Civic Center Historic District is another example of this movement in Des Moines.

From the beginning, Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church focused on providing help to those in need. In the early years, as the neighborhood was developing, Cottage Grove's proximity to Drake University provided the opportunity for many professionals, including Drake faculty, staff and students, to join the church. These individuals brought skills and talents that helped shape the church as a leader in progressive ideals and compassionate outreach.

## CROSS MINISTRIES

Cottage Grove's compassionate outreach continued through the years and eventually led to the creation of CROSS Ministries in 1974. CROSS is a social service agency whose mission is to prevent homelessness and provide for the basic survival needs of people in crisis. In 2010 CROSS began offering a Food Pantry on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings to better serve the needs of the working poor.

In the 40+ years CROSS has operated, it has increased service each year. In 2014 CROSS:

- Provided over \$70,000 in direct financial assistance to 387 households /900 people;
- Provided food to approximately 13,000 individuals through the CROSS Food Pantry;
- Gave school supplies to over 1,300 children at its Back-to-School Giveaway;
- Assisted 1,500 people with needed items from the CROSS Personal Hygiene Pantry.

In 2014, CROSS Ministries touched the lives of close to 17,000 members of our community.

## OUTREACH TO THE SUDANESE

In 1993 Cottage Grove Church began its Sudanese ministry, and within two years, the church became known as a "home" for Sudanese refugees, offering worship services and space for a variety of events and activities. It is estimated that Cottage Grove interfaces annually with 15,000 Sudanese individuals who attend at least one event or receive some kind of support from this ministry. In 2015, one of the two Sudanese worshipping congregations at Cottage Grove became an official church of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

## THE MISSION CENTER

Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church was dissolved as a congregation in 2014. With two vital ministries still operating at the church, the Presbytery of Des Moines voted to transform the building into a mission center. The Cottage Grove Covenant Council and its Operations Team were formed, a vision was created, and planning for this new endeavor began. Two clean-up days were held, and a contractor and architect created plans for renovation.

Due to the many challenges encountered along the way, the offer from Cornerstone Church to purchase the building is seen as providential. CROSS Ministries has found a new location a few blocks away, and Cornerstone is happy to share space with the Sudanese.

As the Mission Center project draws to a close, we wish to express our deep appreciation to all those who volunteered and contributed to this endeavor in so many ways over the past two years!

**COTTAGE GROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH &  
THE COTTAGE GROVE PRESBYTERIAN MISSION CENTER**  
1050 24TH STREET • DES MOINES, IOWA 50311  
AT THE CORNER OF 24TH & COTTAGE GROVE

## A CENTURY-OLD PROPHECY

A prophetic 1918 newspaper article about the Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church stated:

*"...This church is not a church; it is an establishment. It will be a community center. The people of the neighborhood will realize that they have a place for all kinds of meetings. The pastor is a friend of the human race and he will want the people to appreciate the church without regard to creed or condition."* Waterloo Evening Courier, March 19, 1918

We pray that this vision may continue for many years to come!

## **F – NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

**April 2, 2016**

That the following persons be elected to the positions noted:

### **PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

#### **Moderator-2016**

RE Dennis Day (Grinnell, First)

#### **Class of 2016**

RE Ron Grohe (Windsor Heights, Windsor), CPA & Church Property

#### **Class of 2017**

RE Ranney Ramsey (Clive, Heartland), Commercial Real Estate

#### **Class of 2018**

RE Dennis Day (Grinnell, First), Attorney

RE Michael Kleene (Indianola, Trinity United), Architect

The fifth position on this committee is intentionally being left open at this time while the committee searches for a female representative.

### **SYNOD ELDER COMMISSIONER**

#### **Class of 2015**

RE Ted Coppock (Des Moines, Westminster)

Completing unexpired term that ends after May, 2016 meeting