



CHANGING LIVES WITH ENGAGEMENT AND HOPE

September 16, 2022

Dear New Visions Family,

Today New Visions took a large step in faith, following the Spirit who has guided through this journey. Our duly authorized officers signed a purchase agreement with Lincoln Baptist Church for the purchase of the Saint James building and property at 11th and Lake streets. The agreed-upon price is \$550,000, with the understanding that the buyer assumes responsibility for any improvements, repairs, or contingencies.

Remember that on April 27th of this year, our special All Church Conference passed a resolution approving the sale of this property for not less than \$525,000. Our Common Table deliberated over the initial offer from Lincoln Baptist, and countered with a higher number and what we felt was a stronger position for New Visions. Lincoln Baptist then accepted our counter offer. We then contacted the District Superintendent and the District Board of Location and Building and got their approval of the sale, as required by the Book of Discipline.

Before the closing date of November 1, all items in and on the property will be inventoried and we will negotiate what we will keep and what will remain with the building. We have been trying to establish communication with Sacred Winds about their property and its disposition, and are awaiting their good-faith response.

For me these are exciting and actually gut-wrenching days, as I imagine they may be for many of you too. It is exciting to see the seeds planted by the Holy Spirit blooming, and still difficult because of the grief of letting go of such a significant part of our emotional and spiritual history. I am confident that as we take this bold action that we are being led and sustained by Christ's loving spirit. We are not acting impetuously or independently. We are being led into a new life together - I see it as a resurrection, a new life and a New Vision.

Many showings continue at our other site as well and your leaders are deliberating the best response to this interest. We will notify you as soon as a sale is finalized.

Just a note about the money that will be received from these sales: proceeds from the sale of church property are restricted funds according to the Book of Discipline. That means that the principle received can only be used for property related expenses - repairs, remodels, expansion, or new purchases. It cannot be used for regular budget expenses or salaries. Any interest generated by the principle, though, is unrestricted. One of the first differences we expect to notice is being freed from the ongoing maintenance expenses of owning two additional buildings. We really are entering a new phase of our life together.

Please uphold your faith community with your prayers and support through these tumultuous days. I am deeply moved by the grace, patience, and compassion that we have gifted each other with throughout this process. You are a remarkable congregation who sincerely embody the love of Christ.

Peace, Hope, and Joy,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doyle Burbank-Williams', written in a cursive style.

Rev. Doyle Burbank-Williams for the New Visions Common Table