

Ministry Home for Mission

This past Sunday, March 19th, 2023 after service the Leadership Team at Lakeside Church presented the congregation with a unique ministry opportunity and cast vision for this potential missional ministry. As was stated, the Leadership Team has discussed purchasing a home to leverage for ministry for a long time. It's something that's been on the table but has never materialized beyond conversations.

A lot of churches own a house that is commonly referred to as a "Mission House" or traditionally, a "Prophet's Chamber." Some are old parsonages which have been converted, and others are specifically designed for this type of ministry from the start. These places of refuge are often leveraged for traveling missionaries and can be used long term for those on furlough. With the changes over the years in our philosophy of overseas missions and supporting long term missionaries, this mentality fits our long term vision for missions. It is our desire at Lakeside Church to support fewer missionaries for greater investment not just financially, but also relationally, spiritually and emotionally.

A ministry home with the purpose to leverage it for mission is something that is near to our hearts. We'd love to have missionaries come off the field and instead of exhausting themselves running around to their 30+ supporting churches they can come back to rest, be fed, reenergize relationships and be the ones *ministered to* by a local church family. A home like this could be used for such a ministry.

Additionally, we see a Ministry Home for Mission utilized in so many more ways:

- **Short-term transitional housing for people in need** (We have intimate investments with people in ministries we directly support and spearhead: Project Morningstar, Celebrate Recovery, battered women & children, etc.)
- **Partnering with Southwest Crisis Center for people and families seeking relief in crisis** (CRC next door utilizes their old parsonage for this ministry)
- **Hosting guest speakers** (Brian Thorstad, our church health consultant, Cultivate speakers, Harbor Network and Venture Church Network (former CBA) pastors, etc.)
- **New staff members who move to Worthington** and are in transition
- **A place of rest, renewal and rejuvenation to those in full-time Ministry** (pastors, missionaries, church leaders, etc.)

Currently, we have 2 options to purchase a home right next door to the church building. The first is the blue & white house ([1403 Indian Hill Rd](#)) right across the street on the corner of Indian Hill Rd & Linda Lane. The second is the yellow house ([1404 Eckerson Dr.](#)) on the corner of Eckerson & Linda Lane. *We want to bring this before the congregation so that you can start praying and seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance about whether or not we should pursue a home to use for ministry and mission.*

Initial thoughts from the Leadership Team:

- **What about the timing? Why now?**
 - As we stated earlier, this is something that's been discussed over the years. However, realistically we haven't had the opportunity to do something like this until now. We are very stable as a church congregation. Our body and leadership are unified and we're growing. A big reason we're presenting this to the congregation now (with little timing as we know) is LOCATION. Both of these homes are literally right across the street. There are so many benefits for this type of ministry to be close to our physical location.
- **This is Lakeside's decision**
 - You all as the congregation and the people of God have the Spirit of God inside of you. We trust the same God leading in us is the same God in you. So if this is the Holy Spirit's direction, we know He will stir in your hearts as well.
 - It is the congregation's decision to move forward or not, and to financially, relationally and collectively support and execute this potential ministry for mission opportunity or not. We as the Leadership Team will cast vision for what it could be and what the Spirit might do, but you as the people of God are called to actually "do the work of ministry" (Eph. 4:11-12). It's your decision.
 - The decisions of Lakeside Church Members will carry a bit more weight, but we welcome and invite all attendees to give their input, wisdom and advice!
- **We won't borrow money**
 - At this point in time, even though it's expensive, the Leadership Team is not planning on borrowing any money to fund this project.
 - We strongly agree that with our inability to meet budget in recent years, coupled with the cost of inflation and current interest rates, we'd like to take a step of faith and see if the Spirit would lay it upon the congregation's hearts to fund and support this potential ministry opportunity.
- **We'll need to raise 100% of costs to make the house liveable, welcoming & warm**
 - We will need to raise more than just the selling price of the home. If we pursue one that needs some work we will do our best to estimate the costs to repair, fix and fully furnish a home to make it "live-in ready."
- **We'll need complete support to maintain upkeep, lawn mowing, snow removal, etc.**
 - We envision the church congregation fully and completely supporting this endeavor. From cleaning, changing sheets, helping furnish, to fixing and repairing a home for ministry, we expect full congregational support to maintain and upkeep it for mission.
 - Ideally if we could get 52 people, couples or families to take 1 week a year and be responsible for any needs that might occur, we could easily share the load and bless and serve people from all walks of life.
- **Board & Elders performed a walk through this morning (Tuesday, March 21st at 8am) on the [1403 Indian Hill](#) property**

- This home needs considerable work. It's got a bad roof, water damaged ceiling, gutters/soffit/fascia and some windows will need to be replaced. Structurally, other than the dining room this home is pretty sound. But the entire place is very dated and would need to be gutted and updated. By the time it's all said and done, we'll likely have as much invested as the 1404 Eckerson Dr. home (\$240k vs. \$320k).
- **Board & Elders performed a walk through on the [1404 Eckerson Dr.](#) home ASAP**
 - No date/time as been set yet.
 - Even though this property is almost \$80k more, the Leadership Team agrees that this house will likely be a more viable option without the stress, headache and renovation process which the other one (Indian Hill) will require.

What do you all as a congregation need to do?

- **Pray**, seek God's direction
- **Ask questions**, reach out to Pastor Wesley, the Elders or Board
- **Give input & decide**

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