

November 23, 2015

Dear Ministry Partner,

Thank you for your partnership with Mid-Valley Fellowship! You are a key part of individuals obtaining sexual wholeness, experiencing God's grace and truth.

Over the last year, we have been communicating with our ministry partners (like you) about our desire to acquire a building. Having a space of our own would allow us to have a **more distinct community presence**, be a **ministry center in the community**, provide **ample space for offices and groups**, and a place for **interns to live, learn, and grow in an intentional community**.

In the spring of 2014, the Board of Directors began charting a course for the next 5 years of the ministry of Mid-Valley Fellowship. **Vision 2020, as it became known, included a space of our own as part of the 5-Year Plan.** Concurrent with this, a building came on our radar that was inexpensively priced and seemed to fit our desires. As we began talking about Vision 2020 and the availability of this building (late 2014), we had an individual approach us with the desire to assist in planning for the acquisition of a building (what do we need?) and funding the purchase and renovations. This opportunity was consistent with our desire to responsibly pursue a building acquisition by contemplating our needs 10 years down the road (not just right now) and not incurring debt when acquiring a building.

The building we had looked at ended up selling to another buyer, and we began exploring a few other options. As a result of our search process, **we identified a building that we felt would meet the needs and goals we identified**, and we began doing our due diligence, which included:

- ✓ assembling a detailed background on the building from the seller
- ✓ creating a floor plan to reflect our needs
- ✓ having a conversation with the City of Albany about our uses and requirements
- ✓ researching rough estimates of renovation costs from various contractors and sub-contractors

Along the way, we continued to work with the ministry partner who had pledged to fund the purchase and renovation, dialoguing about next steps. Late in summer this year, we were having one of those conversations, and the ministry partner shared that assembling the money to fund the purchase and renovation of the building was not going well. The logistics of the process had been slowing and now were pretty much at a stand-still. After waiting for months



for the money to come through, it had become clear that the roadblocks were probably not going to change any time soon. As a result, the pledge to fund the purchase and renovation needed to be withdrawn.

It was saddening for both of us. The ministry partner wanted to bless us in this way and much energy, prayer, and conversation had gone into the acquisition.

Each fall, the Board and Staff of Mid-Valley Fellowship take a weekend away to spend time together developing relationship, listening for God's direction, and brainstorming about the year ahead. This year, we focused on Exodus 14:10-31, and these are some reflections from the team at the retreat.



Asking Price	\$525,000 <i>recently reduced from \$699,000</i>
Office & Group Meeting Space	7,270 sq. ft.
Intern Living Space	1,375 sq. ft.
Retail Space	<u>3,056 sq. ft.</u> 11,701 sq. ft.

A bit of background about the passage: The Israelites have just left Egypt where they have been in bondage for many years and are in the wilderness on the way to the Promised Land. Pharaoh has second thoughts about letting them go and sends his army after them to bring them back. When faced with the uncertainty of the future, the Israelites get scared.

“[To Moses:] **Why did you bring us out here to die in the wilderness?** ... It's better to be a slave in Egypt than a corpse in the wilderness” (verse 11-12).

Moses responds with a powerful affirmation:

“Don't be afraid. Just stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today ... The Lord himself will fight for you. Just stay calm” (verse 13-14).

The Israelites were willing to give up on the Promised Land when the journey became difficult, and Moses is reminding them to **stand firm in what God's doing in them and in their situation.** He's challenging them to continue in the journey in front of them rather than turn back toward predictability in a familiar situation. The next verse caught our attention as well, particularly as you contrast it with verses 13-14:

“Then the Lord said to Moses, **‘Why are you crying out to me? Tell the people to get moving!** Pick up your staff and raise your hand over the sea. Divide the water so the Israelites can walk through the middle of the sea on dry ground’” (verse 15-16).

Two concepts primarily stood out to us from the passage:

First, they were called to **stand firm in the promise God had given them about a new land AND move forward.**

Timeline

Few Years Ago

Board of Directors begin to discuss what it would look like to have a space of our own.

Fall 2013

Current office floods; unusable for 7 months.

2014

Board of Directors and Staff discuss priorities for the next 5 years. A space of our own is included in Vision 2020 under year 5.

Summer 2014

A building becomes available for purchase, recently reduced in price, that seems to fit with our goals for a space.

September/October 2014

We share with current ministry partners about the building and the need for a God-sized miracle to be able to purchase it.

November 2014

A ministry partner approaches us about funding the purchase of a building.

Winter 2015

The original building sells and we explore other alternatives.

Spring 2015

A building is identified and due diligence completed: building research, renovation costs, and City of Albany requirements.

Fall 2015

Pledge for the acquisition of the building was withdrawn by our ministry partner.

Second, **the sea was a barrier to their freedom and God used it to overcome their enemies.** It was their rescue.

Mid-Valley Fellowship does not have an enemy pursuing us (other than The Enemy of Our Souls), but we do have an enemy in a sense: a **known situation/predictability.** We can be inclined to **avoid what is difficult or scary – the things that requires God's divine intervention – in favor of a known situation.** God has blessed us with a space to minister to those impacted by sexual brokenness, and there are limitations to that space. This has become even more vivid this year with **staff, multiple interns, and volunteers** trying to work in the same space.



And so we believe God is telling us to “get moving!” We are being asked to step out in faith that God is going to continue to provide for us, with exactly what we need.

What does it look like for us to “get moving”?

We continue to listen to God for each step, which at the moment has included the following:

- ✓ building tour for leadership and prayer in the building
- ✓ communicating with current ministry partners
- ✓ developing a prayer team
- ✓ developing a building acquisition team with real estate or capital campaign experience
- ✓ developing a grant writing team and beginning the grant-seeking process

Will you join with us on the journey? A few tangible ways ...

Visit

Come see our current office space and hear the story of what God has done here. We will give you a tour, a hot cup of coffee (or hot chocolate or tea), and share some stories. Please pre-arrange your visit to respect the confidentiality of those we serve.

Pray

Join our prayer team and receive regular updates about how you can specifically pray with and for us in this process. We also plan to have regular prayer gatherings.

Volunteer

Share your skills in one of the areas above (real estate, capital campaigns, grant writing). Your expertise is a necessary part of the process.

Give

Contribute to Mid-Valley Fellowship's Building Fund, specifically for the acquisition of a building. You can make a donation toward the Building Fund by using the enclosed response card and envelope or by designating it when you make a donation in the future.

How will you be involved? Please complete and return the enclosed response card and envelope or write us an e-mail. We look forward to hearing from you!

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