

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION REPORT TO PRESBYTERY
THE SANCTUARY PLACE, KANSAS CITY, KANSAS
June 5, 2018**

The Administrative Commission for The Sanctuary Place was created by Heartland Presbytery in November, 2011, and charged with the responsibility of exploring the potential for continuing ministry utilizing the property of the former United Church of the Good Shepherd, Kansas City, Kansas. For more than six years, the Commission has fulfilled this task but has succeeded neither in redevelopment nor in new development at this site. Accordingly, we now inform the Presbytery that the potential for further effort no longer exists and request that the Commission be dissolved.

The vision which inspired us was the hope of changing the model of simply selling a vacant church building, usually at a considerable loss, to another church body; we hoped instead to build a creative new Presbyterian ministry with the serviceable existing building as a resource. The Commission began by continuing for a year regular worship services for the Presbyterian remnant from the dissolution of the united congregation. Demographic studies of the neighborhood were investigated. Contact was made with area schools and other sources to determine community needs. Staff and resources of "1001 New Worshiping Communities" were consulted

At the direction of the Presbytery this Commission served as a Pastor Nominating Committee to secure a staff person for the new church development. Dozens of Personal Information Forms were studied, and numerous interviews, both by skype and in person, were conducted. We were able to call and install a Pastor for this effort, but this staff person resigned after only a little more than a year. Extensive efforts on our part to renew a pastoral search eventually were halted when it became apparent that resources needed to sustain this work would not be forthcoming.

Some efforts have been rewarded. We have had continual occupancy of the building by various Scouting organizations. Notably, a Girl Scout troop continues to use the building and to be very effective in providing some care and maintenance of both building and grounds. We have held a number of work days at the site. In December of 2017, we conducted worship services on the four Sunday evenings of Advent, each followed by a community meal.

Over the years of its existence, this Commission has been blessed by the service of a number of teaching and ruling elders appointed by the Presbytery. We thank them all for their dedication and faithful service. And we are grateful for all who have offered their prayer, encouragement, and support.

However, careful evaluation of our own experience and of the changed circumstances which we confront as a Presbytery convinces us that a continuation of our work would not constitute wise stewardship. Accordingly, we place before the Presbytery the following:

ACTION ITEM: Having fulfilled our commission to explore fully the possibility for development and redevelopment at the former site of the United Church of the Good Shepherd, and having concluded that there is not sufficient funding and support at this time, the Administrative Commission for The Sanctuary Place respectfully requests that this Commission be dissolved, effective April 26, 2018.

Kathleen Knehans, Moderator; Elizabeth Strobel; Bob Stikeleather; George McCall, Clerk