

Facility Update from Western District Conference Executive Board – July 12, 2023

At a special meeting on May 31, 2023, the WDC Executive Board approved sale of the 2500 Place building in North Newton, KS, where WDC's offices, Resource Library and meeting space are located, with plans for WDC to lease space in the building going forward. Closing for the sale of the building took place on July 12, 2023.

This follows a discernment process that began in 2021 when the WDC Stewardship Commission and Trustees began discussing the possibility of selling 2500 Place. Factors they considered included less need for gathering space as more meetings take place online, the burden of building management and maintenance, and the retirement of the long-time volunteer building manager. The Executive Board initiated an assessment of WDC's facility needs by appointing a Facilities Assessment Team to bring a recommendation to the Executive Board regarding the future of 2500 Place. At the 2022 Annual Assembly, the assessment team invited delegates to discuss possibilities for the building. The assessment team considered delegates' ideas and feedback from staff, researched facility possibilities, and had conversations with potential buyers. This led to the team's assessment that WDC's mission and priorities would be best served by selling 2500 Place to a friendly buyer who would allow WDC to continue to lease space as long as WDC chooses to do so. The Executive Board affirmed this direction, and appointed a Sale Negotiation Team to negotiate sale and lease agreements and propose use of the sale proceeds.

At its special meeting on May 31 the Executive Board took actions based on the Sale Negotiation Team recommendations to approve:

- a. The sale of the 2500 Place building to G5 Investments, LLC, a Kansas Limited Liability Company represented by Joel Gaeddert and Greg Gaeddert, members of WDC congregations.
- b. Leasing a portion of the 2500 Place building for offices, library and meeting space.
- c. Plans for use of the sale proceeds and remaining funds in the existing 2500 Place Fund, including paying off internal debt related to facility expenses, initial subsidy for lease expenses on a reducing basis, and supporting a new part-time fund development coordinator to enhance WDC's future financial stability.
- d. Plans to do an annual review of physical office space needed for carrying out the mission of WDC.

The Executive Board thanks the Gaeddert family for their collaboration in supporting WDC's priorities during the sale process, and their vision for the 2500 Place building that is compatible with WDC's mission and will continue to enhance the local community. The Board also extends gratitude to members of the Facilities Assessment Team, the Sale Negotiation Team and WDC Staff for their diligent work in this process.

WDC's ongoing presence at 2500 Place will continue to support its core ministries of resourcing congregations, supporting leaders and networking church-planting partnerships. For more information, contact the WDC office at 316-283-6300 or wdc@mennowdc.org.