

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

College Avenue Presbyterian Members Vote to Sell Building

Alton, IL – June 15, 2015

At a congregational meeting on June 14, an overwhelming majority of members of College Avenue Presbyterian Church (CAPC), Alton, have voted to sell their building and seek a new site for continuing their worship and ministry. The vote came as the result of a recommendation from the congregation's Session (its governing body) after that group did an extensive review of the congregation's needs and finances and considered different options. The listing and sale will be done with the assistance and approval of the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy, the judicatory that partners with CAPC. For the time being, the congregation will continue in the building at 1702 Clawson Street, worshiping on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. and planning for a Vacation Bible School to be held there in August.

"It's a bold move for this congregation to make," said The Reverend Dale Jackson, pastor of the congregation. "Church life and culture in the 21st century are changing and unless the institution changes as well, the future would be bleak. Some members are understandably sad about the prospect of no longer worshiping in this building, but the fact of the matter is that the church is the people and God's mission in the world, not the building in which they're housed." Jackson emphasized that the sale of the building is in no way a signal that the work and mission of the congregation is ending. In fact, the proceeds of a sale should ensure the continued life of the church and its ministry well into the future.

The congregation hopes to find a buyer who will honor and maintain the historic character of the building. Its presence at the corner of Clawson and College Avenue has been a landmark in Upper Alton for almost 90 years. The structure is the congregation's third in its many years of ministry.

College Avenue Presbyterian Church has ministered to the Alton area and beyond for over 175 years. It has a long history of advocating for social justice, starting with its first pastor, martyred abolitionist Elijah P. Lovejoy, through the mid-century racial civil rights struggles, the 1980s AIDS crisis and to the present day as the Session recently voted to join the national organization called Covenant Network of Presbyterians which has long advocated for equal rights for the LGBTQ community both within and outside the church. All are welcome to participate in any of its activities. To learn more about College Avenue Presbyterian Church, check out the website at www.collegeavepres.org or find them on Facebook.