

THE PLUM STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

252 Tuxedo Avenue
Highland Park, Michigan

Minutes of Special Business Meeting

September 29, 1973

Officers Present:

D. Felske, elder
(J. Bryant, deacon, gave his proxy to D. Felske)
being all of the officers of the church.

Also present were members of the congregation and others. The members included James Snow, Annie Peeples, Norman Smith, Bro. and Sis. Carter, Bro. Walker, Bro. and Sis. Coates, Yvonne Argall and Anita Argall, Helen Sitter, Ann Bradow, Janie Orr, Donnie Crawford, Bro. and Sis Knox and their daughter, Bro. and Sis. Matson.

Others present were former members Bro. and Sis. Coates, two ladies and a small boy accompanying Bro. Walker.

The meeting commenced at 7:30 p.m. with prayer by Bro. Coates.

Bro. Matson was designated chairman by Bro. Felske.

The chairman announced that the meeting was conducted pursuant to the corporate bylaws, and that announcements of the meeting and its purpose were made at the regular Lord's day morning worship services held September 16, and September 23, 1973, which were the two Lord's days immediately preceding the special meeting. The purposes of the meeting as announced were to consider the sale of the church building and adjoining property and the relocation of a place of worship.

It was announced that the board of officers, consisting of Bro. Felske and Bro. Bryant, which is charged with the business affairs of the congregation, has decided to accept an offer to purchase the church property of \$125,000.00, in view of the continual deficit spending experience of the church over the past few years which is presently averaging a loss of \$7,500.00 annually. The principal expense is the maintenance of the church building. The officers and other leaders stated that since the Lord's church does not consist of property but rather the members, that the inordinate spending to maintain the building is inappropriate. The average contributions per week amount to about \$160.00. The budgeted expense is \$315.00 per week. Contributions have not increased to keep pace with rising costs. The Minister's salary is a more important factor

now that Harmon Black has retired because half of his salary was paid by an insurance annuity.

A great part of the church building has not been used in recent years including many of the classrooms in the educational wing and basement, and the auditorium balcony. The two heating systems necessary for the large areas involved are much too expensive in relation to amount of space needed and used by the congregation. Property insurance has doubled since the riot in 1967. Vandalism damage is increasing. The roof and one furnace need repair.

The chairman reported the belief of the officers and leaders that work should be commenced on the campus of Wayne State University and that the church relocate in some building on or near the campus. A history was given of the former movement of the church from the Detroit City Hall in the 1840's, to Howard Street in the downtown area, then to Plum Street opposite Tiger stadium, then to the present location in 1918. The proposed relocation at Wayne State University would be closer to the points of origin of the church and would serve the central city. Most of the approximately 160 congregations in the State of Michigan have their origin with Plum Street Church.

Various other opinions were expressed about the relocation of the church in the present community, although very few of the members of the congregation live within several miles of Hamilton and Tuxedo Avenues. Much discussion about the work in the present community followed and it was noted that the response by the community to any effort made to attract them to the congregation was minimal. Even the concerted effort in 1972 to attract young people from the immediate area through the vacation bible school program did not result in any continued relationships.

Further consideration will be given the relocation with the alternatives of Wayne State University and a local setting being the principal ones.

Bro. Felske announced that it was

RESOLVED by the Board of Officers that the sale of the church property consisting of the building and three lots numbered 243, 244 and 245 of Tuxedo Park Subdivision in the City of Highland Park shall be sold and the offer of the prospective purchaser, The Wings of Truth Gospel Church, in the amount of \$125,000.00, be accepted, and that three of the five trustees be and are duly authorized to execute any document required in the conveyance of the property, the trustees being Daniel C. Matson, Daniel D. Felske, Norman Smith, James Snow and John B. Bryant, and that announcement of the

Resolution shall be made at the following Lord's
day morning worship service.

There being no further business to come before the meeting it
was declared adjourned at 10:00 following a prayer led by Bro.
Crawford.


Daniel C. Matson, Secretary

ATTEST:


Daniel D. Milke