

Rev. Jerry Fourroux, Jr.

## **Building Into Our Future**

### **A Proposal To Fund A New Facility**

*Lycoming Centre Presbyterian Church 2025*

#### **A Faithful History**

Lycoming Centre has been blessed over the last 177 years to make disciples in our region. We have stories of transformation, commitment, and miracles. We have seen the power of prayer change others and us. Over the last 70 years, we have had only 4 senior pastors! Consider how much our world has changed in the last 70 years, and know how this stability has demonstrated the unchanging Word for the changing world.

#### **A Consistent Commitment to Discipleship**

As life continues to change at a rapid pace, our mission to make disciples continues unchanged. However, we have adapted the mission over the last 70 years with changes to our physical plant through expansions and renovations as we seek to improve our ministry every year.

#### **Mounting Urgency Around the Building**

It is no surprise to those faithful to this church that our building has some significant disadvantages. August 2024 was a stark reminder that an aging facility can be a drain in multiple ways as a flood caused damage including the loss of our HVAC system. As much as we have fond memories of how God has used this place, we do not want to be beholden to something that is seriously interrupting our movement forward and causing undue stress financially and organizationally.

#### **An Opportunity to Adapt Our Facilities**

As we face new challenges, we will continue to need to update and transform in order to live out the mission that Jesus left us. We have seen growth in our ministries and our effectiveness over the last 5 years, and now we need to address our physical plant challenge here at Lycoming Centre. The leadership of the Session and the Staff have concluded that our property is a barrier that prevents growth and further effectiveness in our mission to make disciples.

*The key objective is to find or build a ministry facility that:*

- Is a center of worship that is more visible to the community
- Is accessible to the people we are reaching in the Greater Williamsport Area
- Has space to expand our programs for youth and children
- Is accessible to people with physical needs

## **A Visible Landmark in the Community**

Having a new center of ministry will allow us to explore other ways to connect with and serve with people of our community like a coffee shop or a preschool. We dream about this property being near a school or cultural center of Greater Williamsport. With this type of visibility and accessibility, we would be able to serve and reach people with the Good News of Jesus.

As people discover that happiness is fleeting, they will seek to enjoy God through our worship and community. When people find that the modern world holds no hope or purpose for them, we will tell them the Story of Jesus and his love through teaching Scripture and sharing our stories of God's faithfulness. When people are living in fear, they will see a community united and bringing Peace. All this so that Greater Williamsport will be blessed and flourish with strong families and strong communities for generations.

## **Project Cost Estimate**

A project of this size is exciting and once in a generation. The estimate is that we may have to invest \$3M-4M over the next number of years to complete it as it will likely take multiple phases to finish.

The next step is to raise \$750,000 in a 3-year pledge campaign (promised giving) with our congregation in order to secure land and the first phase of construction (which would likely be supplemented by lending).

## **Tentative Project Timeline**

*Fall 2024 Campaign Readiness Assessment*

Continued Due Diligence and Property Search

*Winter 2025 Capital Fundraising Campaign*

Finalization of Project Budget and Lending

2025-2026 Acquisition of Land and Construction Start

Construction Project 12-month Completion

## **Process Overview**

We have secured the service of Catapult, a national church consulting group, to help us in the early stages of assessing our readiness as a congregation to move forward with a project and with the fundraising necessary.

Based on the results of our assessment, church leadership will propose a way forward to the congregation that allows for time to digest and then approve the strategy. Please participate in the anonymous congregational survey in order that we can hear helpful feedback.

With any questions about our process so far, please contact:

Jim Redka, Clerk of Session, at [jredka@hotmail.com](mailto:jredka@hotmail.com)