

INSIDE THE BIGGER STORY

JULY - AUGUST 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our **Real Estate Services Team** continues to provide resources to conferences and churches during this time of limited interaction due to the pandemic. We have created a suite of **virtual seminars** that we are prepared to present for your conference.

Additional details can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

MIDWINTER 2022

HYATT REGENCY O'HARE
JANUARY 24-28, 2022

More than an investment.

We're Building for the Future.

When is the last time your mortgage lender called to ask how life is in your house since you closed on your mortgage? That seems like a strange question, but that's exactly what our Real Estate Services team has been doing over the past several months. Every quarter, our team calls each church in their territory to check in. What began as a way to stay in touch with our ministry partners when we couldn't make site visits has become a unexpected blessing of the past year and a half. We have been able to hear stories of how pastors and church leaders re-imagined their entire ministry model to create connectivity during a time of social distance.

The two stories in this newsletter were birthed from those regular check-ins. We were able to hear how Journey Covenant Church in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, turned a small food pantry that served 8 - 9 families once a week into a community-wide drive-through that served 80 - 90 families per week in a matter of days. We were also able to talk to Rev. Dr. Alex Gee, pastor of Fountain of Life Covenant Church in Madison, WI, about the challenges of shifting to virtual preaching and the Center For Black Excellence and Culture that is in the early stages of development.

These are only two of many stories we hope to share in the coming months. As church buildings were closed, ministry remained very much open. We are honored to share in the ministry stories of Journey Covenant, Fountain of Life and all our ministry partners. We cover each loan we provide with prayer, and share in the joys and sorrows of each of their unique ministry stories.



NATIONAL
COVENANT
PROPERTIES

YOU INVEST • WE LEND • MINISTRY GROWS

THE LITTLE CHURCH THAT COULD

CUYAHOGA FALLS, OHIO



The vision and mission of Journey Covenant Church is to help connect people to faith. We began our ministry partnership with Journey in 2013 through a Real Estate Services consultation to identify improvements their facility needed, then NCP provided a loan to help finance some of those building improvements. We connected with Journey Covenant this past year through phone calls to their pastor, Jeanette Brown, and virtual seminars in the Great Lakes Conference attended by Pastor Jeanette and other members of Journey.

Three years ago, when Pastor Jeanette Brown began her role at Journey, it was a little church that was about to close. However, she strongly believes that to grow the church, you must seed the community. With what she calls “Team Journey,” the church has continued to grow despite Covid. Now, three years later she and Team Journey are praising God because they’re still here.

One of the ways Journey seeds their community is by running a food pantry called **Pantry on the Corner**. When Covid hit and they could no longer serve inside, they took the food pantry outside and set up a drive-through where they went from serving 8 – 9 families per week to 80 – 90 families per week. Pastor Jeanette drew a beautiful parallel to when Jesus fed the 5,000 as this little food pantry with a tiny budget was receiving donations by the truckload, and always had more than enough food and supplies to meet the needs of their community. **“We were just a praying church believing that God will provide if we are to stay open, and he did. When we had a need, it always seemed to be met,”** said Pastor Jeanette through tears. We are celebrating with Team Journey that their needs have been met and they have been able to continue seeding their community and experiencing growth.



STAFF HIGHLIGHT: ANGEL SINCHI

Angel Sinchi joined our team 5 years ago and currently serves as an Investment Services Representative. He is a gifted team player, and a person we all enjoy calling our co-worker. If you have called our 800 number, more than likely, you have had the pleasure of talking to him. He brings a great sense of humor and a wealth of sports knowledge to our team.

Angel married his wife, Megan, in April of 2020. Theirs was the first Facebook Live wedding our staff attended as they shifted their plans to align with Covid restrictions at the time. The two met while Megan was working at Covenant Offices. She is now the Associate Pastor for Spiritual Formation at Edgebrook Covenant Church. Angel and Megan call Chicago home and enjoy exploring local restaurants, museums, and spending time with family.



GRATEFUL, PROUD, ANXIOUS & EXCITED

Thank you very much for your support and interest in the ministry of NCP. We are so very grateful for our loyal investors and Covenanters who have been and remain committed to the local ministry by our Covenant churches. We would not be able to make NCP a reality without your investments.

As we all adapted to the new working environment during the pandemic, our team quickly developed new processes to continue to effectively assist our investors and borrowers. I trust that we have been able to live up to your expectations and to continue to serve you with the level of expertise, response time, and care that you would like to receive from our team.

I am very proud of our staff and their commitment to mission-minded customer service while being challenged and limited to digital or phone interaction with the people we serve. Our team is expanding to meet the needs from the increased levels of investments in NCP and support of our mission. We are excited to highlight, Angel, one of our Investment Services employees who earlier this year celebrated 5 years at NCP in this newsletter.

Recently, I had the opportunity to travel to a different area of our country. During this trip, I was reminded of the beauty of the God's creation, how integrated everything is, and how we are all longing for connection and interaction with other people. As we are beginning to travel more and to visit our churches, we are both anxious to see old and meet new ones, and excited to talk about new ministry opportunities and dreams for meaningful mission initiatives. We are ready to serve you and to assist you with your building and facility needs. Let our team know how we can help you and your leadership team in making a difference in your community.

I hope you will enjoy learning about the ministry of two of our Covenant churches in this newsletter. We are grateful for the ministry of all our Covenant churches and affiliated organizations. Thank you very much for allowing NCP to be a small part of your ministry!



FOUNTAIN OF LIFE

MADISON, WISCONSIN

We recently had the opportunity to visit with Rev. Dr. Alex Gee, senior pastor of Fountain of Life Church (FOL) in Madison, WI. Fountain of Life considers itself an African American led multicultural ministry. When Pastor Gee was asked how he has seen God at work during the past year, he replied after a deep sigh, that Covid has hit the church hard because it impacted the employment of their demographic. The community disenfranchisement was paramount to mental health with no gatherings, no hugs, and social distancing due to their familial and relational world view. He had to trust and preach that people would re-explore what it means to have community with FOL and what it means to have community with family in spite of a global pandemic. However, this broken system provided the playing field for **all** to do ministry as both their dedicated fringe members stepped up with donations of money, time, and resources to aid the community.

NCP was pleased to partner with FOL in the early stages of the **Center for Black Excellence and Culture** by providing funding to hire consultants to aid in the development of the Center for Black Excellence and Culture. Pastor Gee expressed

appreciation for NCP and Rob Hall, vice president of Real Estate Services, for this funding. In the future, people will come to one campus and see a church, non-profit and cultural center all being led by people of faith with a vision to make faith relevant for people who thought all Christians do is build churches, not community.

The goal of the center is to teach entrepreneurship by converting art, consulting or podcasting into a business. No other center in Madison is being built that focuses on those issues in the way the Center for Black Excellence and Culture will. Pastor Gee said "Black Americans are witnessing being dignified by fellow a black person who happens to be a pastor." He ended our conversation by saying he feels like he was created for this and he loves that the Covenant and NCP celebrate it.



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We can also work individually with conferences to develop virtual seminars to meet your specific needs.

1. Mission, Ministry & Maintenance

Mission, Ministry and Maintenance are usually not three things that go together. In this workshop, we will show how your building is both an asset *and* tool for your ministry. We will look at how your building speaks to your values, and thus helps you to achieve your mission. We will also make the case that stewardship involves ensuring that you are taking good care of your facility. Practical tools and resources will be shared to help you manage your facility to maximize your mission and ministry.

2. Managing Finances & Facility During a Time of Crisis & Beyond

Sound financial management is important for all churches, even more so during difficult situations. In this session we will look at the key things you need to do to manage your finances and facility in times of trouble. These include taking stock of your current financial position, anticipating future income and expense and developing a cash flow spreadsheet to better manage your money under pressure. The best part about this session is that the lessons learned will help you even without a crisis.

3. Use of the Church Building by Outside Groups

Churches should be lighthouses to their community. This often means opening your church building for use by outside groups. However, shared use of the facility can create legal and relational challenges. This training will help churches think through these issues as they consider how to make their facility a gathering place for their local community.



Let the experience of our team work for you.



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