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A Partnership for Mission between OCC & SF Presbytery

Oakland City Church (OCC) has a unique opportunity to partner with the Presbytery of San Francisco, the owners of the property on the corner of MacArthur and Coolidge. Their gracious welcome has made it possible for us to grow and serve like never before. This building is located in a perfect place for OCC's model of ministry - to serve in a 'boundary' neighborhood, where a diverse community can all gather in one place.

Recently, our church and the Presbytery began to talk about what it would look like for the church to stay in this building for the long term - 20 to 25 years. We knew that we wanted more than a tenant/landlord relationship. We wanted to use this building for worship, community and service. And the Presbytery wanted to do more than collect rent. They wanted to support mission in this historic neighborhood.

So, we developed the idea of a Mission Partnership. In this partnership, the Presbytery makes improvements to the building to bring it up to code and keep it safe and secure. The Presbytery will also work with OCC to make missional improvements to the site to make it more hospitable and useful for the work OCC is called to do in the neighborhood. And OCC will commit to long-term missional work in the Fruitvale/Dimond neighborhood in partnership with the Presbytery.

As a church, we will:

- Hire a site director who will develop partnerships, funding sources and volunteers.
- Use the Gym, Kitchen and Classroom space for partnerships with local organizations to serve:
 - Host Love Never Fails, reaching young people escaping sex-trafficking.
 - Host Larry Austin and Elevate Ministries, supporting the homeless population.
 - East Oakland Presbyterian Churches; Primera Iglesia and Elmwood Pres.
 - Other ministries that align with our shared vision and mission.
- Partner with Bret Harte Middle School to serve local students with after-school programs.
- Continue the Food Pantry and Senior Center; legacy ministries of Fruitvale Pres.
- Raise up church planters in the East Bay with shared resources from the Presbytery and OCC.

While OCC is not a Presbyterian church, we are excited about honoring the 130 year legacy of Fruitvale Presbyterian Church and partner in the East Bay with other churches and organizations with a similar kingdom-minded vision. It's all about serving the people in the Dimond, Fruitvale, Laurel corridor and sharing the message of Jesus through a diverse and gracious community of people. By their generosity, the Presbytery has encouraged OCC to continue boldly pursuing new mission opportunities.

A Vision for Meeting at the Boundary

OCC and Presbytery to Invest Needed Funds in the MacArthur Property

Upgrade the Building for Neighborhood Ministry Impact and Gospel Proclamation

- Update the kitchen, the gym and downstairs rooms to create safe, accessible spaces with showers, and safe classrooms for children, youth and the homeless population
- Make cosmetic improvements to beautify and welcome the neighborhood

Upgrade the Building for Gospel Proclamation and Sustained Ministry

- Make upgrades to the sanctuary, children's ministry and classroom spaces
- Tackle long-deferred maintenance in the building for safety and code compliance

A Vision for Serving at the Boundary

OCC to Raise \$350,000 for Neighborhood Missional Funding

Use the Building to Develop and Host Responsive Ministry Partnerships

Develop deep partnerships with existing ministries including:

- Love Never Fails serving at-risk youth
- Elevate Ministries serving the homeless
- LEAF serving students in afterschool programming
- Year Up providing training and internships for youth
- Food Pantry founded by Fruitvale Presbyterian Church
- Senior Center serving local older residents
- Primera Iglesia and Elmwood Presbyterian leading youth ministry

Staffing for Serving Our Community

- Hire a Site Coordinator who will manage the space and develop partnerships and funding
- Hire two interns to help support after-school programming

A Vision for Growing at the Boundary

OCC to Raise \$50,000 Annually for Church Planting & Partner with the Presbytery

Planting New Churches in the East Bay Corridor

- OCC to identify and coach new church planters for PC(USA) or RCA church planters
- Presbytery helps to fund approved church plants

About Oakland City Church

Oakland City Church is called to be a church of those who don't belong together, gathered around Jesus for the sake of those who don't belong. By this we mean;

Don't Belong Together - We're building a community that is grounded in a common call rather than agreement on every issue. We are anti-racist, multi-ethnic, cross-generational, and broad in our theological convictions. In our differences, we help each grow more and more in the likeness of Christ.

Gathered Around Jesus - Our common call comes from Jesus, who offers grace and the way of discipleship to all who respond in faith. There is no favoritism with Jesus - just an open door for poor, rich, strong and weak to follow him.

For the Sake of Those Who Don't Belong - We have always called ourselves a community that cares for the people on the margins. That's always been true for those on the spiritual margins - we have worked hard to help the unconvinced to feel at home and explore faith. However, when it comes to caring for those on the margins of society; the homeless, the refugee and the immigrant, OCC has only made temporary steps. We have not built this work into our church's long-term plans.

As we look to the future, our church seeks to commit definitively to this final piece of our mission; making space for those who don't feel like they belong - the marginalized in our neighborhood.

Long-Term Roots in the Fruitvale Neighborhood

Our church began in a living room and quickly moved to sites all around the city of Oakland. Being on the move and taking risks is a part of our DNA.

But when we moved to the old site of Fruitvale Presbyterian Church just over four years ago, something special happened. We felt like we had come home to a place we could put down roots. Our church grew and our connection to the neighborhood deepened.

Now, when people come to our newcomers' brunch, they tell us:

- *"that coming to OCC feels like coming home, like a family".*
- *"that they walked or drove by the patio and saw the community gathered before the service and they just knew they had to come and try it out."*
- *"that the people here look just like our family."*
- *"that they're not sure about Jesus yet, but this is a place they could find out more."*

This is the kind of ministry we hope to continue here in the 2735 MacArthur Blvd facility.