

Brookfield Presbyterian
Presbytery of Milwaukee
1 July 2015

A New Collaboration

There are big changes underway for Brookfield Presbyterian Church (BPC) as they foster an innovative and creative shared ministry in partnership with Presbyterian Homes of Wisconsin (PHW). BPC has been worshipping at its current location since 1963 and is looking forward to residing in a new location as they reinvent themselves. Current construction pictures are at the church for you to share in our excitement.

While BPC is relocating into a senior living community, they will remain a separate congregation; collaborating but not merging. This collaboration allows for shared worship space for BPC and Dickson Hollow. Additionally, BPC will have office and program space in the new senior living community in Menomonee Falls. The collaboration will be ecumenical in nature as other denominations will hold worship services during the week in the shared worship space, and thus reflect the composition of the community which resides there.

The concept for this collaboration began with a long time member of BPC who is also very involved with PHW and aware of PC(USA)'s 1001 New Worshiping Communities. This unique position opened the door for the opportunity to create a shared ministry. Initial inquiries about the possibilities of a collaboration led to outlining a vision and eventually to developing a project plan enthusiastically embraced by the congregation and PHW.

BPC quickly formed a collaboration group who has shepherded the process with PHW on all aspects of the collaboration, along with liaisons from COM and the PHW Project Development Committee. The collaboration group updates the congregation on a monthly basis.

The Rev. Julie Peterson the pastor of BPC, shared that as a congregation they discovered honest conversation about declining membership and finances and out of the box thinking opened the door for change. They feel very strongly drawn to continuing to share the ministry of Jesus Christ while maintaining sustainability into the future.

In 2013, the congregation voted to proceed with developing a detailed plan with Presbyterian Homes, and to approve the collaboration. They then requested the presbytery permission to relocate and sell the BPC property to pay initial costs and continue the mission of the congregation at their new site.

March 1, 2015 the presbytery approved the request to change BPC to Living Hope Presbyterian Church.

BPC will begin using their new name at the time they move out of the 1485 Brookfield Road location. The congregation is excited about living into their new name and new ministry.

Submitted by Donna Holmes
dholmes@pbymilwaukee.org