

Elim Mission Church
Cokato, Minnesota
Case Statement - 2017

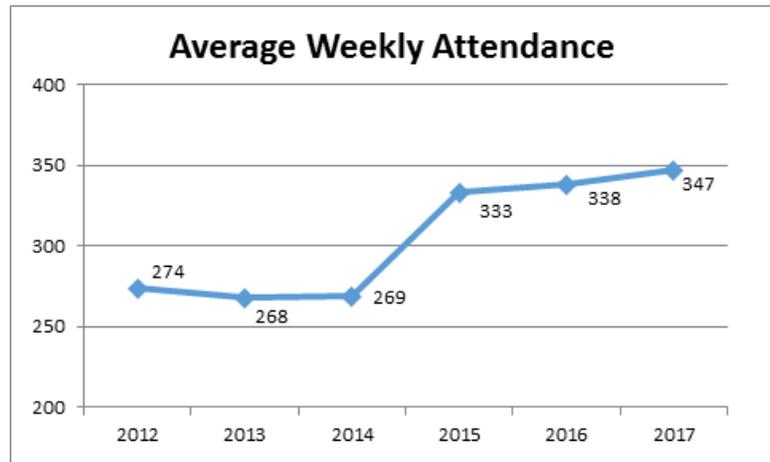
HISTORY

Elim Mission Church has a long, rich, and deep tradition to Cokato and the many surrounding communities. As a congregation Elim is rooted and grounded in historic, Biblical Christianity. Elim is currently associated with the Evangelical Covenant Church, and the Evangelical Free Church.

Being evangelical and contemporary in nature, the worship experience is expressive and heartfelt. Utilizing a vast array of acoustical equipment and instruments, the worship experience is truly inter-generational, enjoyed by young children all the way to those who are in their nineties. There are some families at Elim with four generations of family members worshiping together on Sunday mornings.

The original facility hosting Elim Mission Church was constructed in 1916, with facility additions in 1958, and 1978. The current facility is showing many signs of aging, deterioration, and accessibility concerns. Of primary concern is the restrictions that the current facility places in meeting ministry demands. The average weekly attendance has increased from 253 people in the year 2010 to 400 for the year 2016.

Due to the increased weekly attendance and overflow attendance on Sunday mornings, the Elder Board decided that it was necessary to have two Sunday morning services. This change was implemented the first Sunday in November 2015, and has been very successful. Prior to this change there were up to fifty



individuals participating in the Sunday morning service by watching a large screen projection in the Fellowship Hall. The move to two services was approached with some caution as our church family is very relational, and there had been in the past some reluctance to having two services, as it was feared that relationships might be somewhat hampered as it is difficult to visit with everyone when friends and family may

be attending different services. By having expanded to two services it is believed that the sanctuary is large enough to house our growing congregation for perhaps the next five to seven years.

Elim is growing in both the number of families attending, and the number of children in each family. There are a lot of young children involved in Elim's ministry. Much of the growth the past few years has been by transfer, but there has also been growth due to new life in Christ as well. It continues to be the goal of the Elder Council to target growth through the Gospel. The ministries at Elim currently reflect this goal.

OUR VISION

In the fall of 2015 the Elder Council developed a vision statement to communicate to the church family what they believed God would have our congregation look like in three to five years. As a part of this vision statement the elders envisioned the following: "We envision a new facility and adequate resources that would support our Mission and Vision." The building project reflected in this program statement is for the construction of a new church facility for Elim Mission Church. Primary emphasis will be to construct a facility to meet the primary ministry needs associated with Sunday morning worship services, Wednesday evening Oasis gathering, church family celebration events such as weddings, funerals, and other church gatherings. The facility will also house office space for current and future staff.

PASTOR'S LETTER

Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 5:41-42 "The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus. And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: 'Jesus is the Messiah.'

Acts 8:4 "those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went."

Matthew 28:18-20 "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"

The preceding scripture and many more in the New Testament speak of a ministry that is expansive. Expanding in reaching more people with the Gospel and also expanding in the discipling of believers. The early church had growth that was nothing short of explosive and throughout this time they were continually making adjustments, expanding outreach and starting new ministry endeavors. The focus never changed amidst all the changes; that was preaching the Gospel and discipling believers. The early church serves as a great model for the church today in America.

The current facility planning and ministry campaign is much greater than simply needing more space, but is more about our commitment as a congregation to making a greater impact for His kingdom. While it is true that we are pursuing our mission at our current location, there are issues with our current facility which limit our effectiveness and programming. Here are some of the convictions held about why we need to pursue a new facility:

- **New Facilities will position us with more opportunities to build bridges into our community.** We currently could not consider possible community outreaches such as day care, funeral and wedding meals, seminar and conference opportunities, any type of large scale adult, children and youth outreaches and as well as holiday outreaches.

- **The elderly and handicapped are left out with our current facility.** Not only are many of our senior saints unable to fellowship with the rest of the body in various opportunities, but they are also left out of adult Wednesday night classes and other adult opportunities due to the fact we do not have handicapped accessibility to more than the main level. Anyone in a wheelchair is unable to use restrooms which are not handicapped accessible. A new facility communicates to the precious seniors and handicapped that they are greatly valued as a significant part of the body and ministry.

- **There are those over 100 years ago and then again in the late 1970's who sacrificed greatly so the ministry here could be positioned for the generations to come to grow.** It is time, for us here at Elim to position this ministry for the next generations to come. Consider the many children and their children one day having the resources for expansive ministry growth and get excited that we could be part of that.

- **Our current ministries can only plan to maintain, not grow.** When we seek to reach out to children for Oasis or youth, we can only handle so many and we are basically at our limits to minister to them and certainly limited to expand. Also, studies show ministries will lose people when the facilities aren't adequate to absorb growth. What a shame that would be. None of us want to "feed the status quo", but the reality is we are not positioned for growth, but only for maintaining. There is nothing expansive about that.

· **In a very practical way, our building is deteriorating and that cannot be ignored.** Our Building and Grounds Council is doing an incredible job of keeping the facility as safe and usable as possible. But in reality, in our current location we can only do so much.

As we move forward, we are excited about the possibilities a new facility would allow us. We hope we each see this possibility as ministry expansion.

OUR BUILDING VISION AND PROGRAM STATEMENT

In January of 2016 at the Elder Retreat, much time was devoted to discussion and prayer regarding the topic of constructing a new church facility. It was unanimously decided for the elders to use the next six months to develop a program statement that would be presented to the church family at the September 2016 meeting for their consideration.

The Program Statement is a concise document that gives a comprehensive overview of what is hoped to be accomplished through the construction of a new church facility. It is a mission driven document that addresses a number of issues such as the number and size of each space within the facility, the size of the footprint of the entire building, the cost of the facility, and the financial plan for making the construction a reality. In short, a Program Statement is designed to communicate a “game plan” for what is desired to be accomplished through a building project.

The final version of the Program Statement was presented to and approved by the church family at Elim at their meeting in September of 2016. It is important to keep in mind that the Program Statement is a living document that will be tweaked as we move into the phases of design and construction. Highlights of the Program Statement are as follows:

- Project budget of \$4,286,875
- Size of building: 30,070 gross square feet, 21,050 assignable square feet
- Building designed to accommodate 40% growth over current participation
- Amenities Include Space for:
 - Administrative Office Suite
 - Student Ministries Rooms
 - Children’s Education Wing
 - Fellowship Hall with seating of 210 individuals
 - Worship Center for 350 individuals
 - Connection Hall (Foyer)
 - Conference and Breakout Rooms

It was recommended in the Program Statement that a site analysis be performed to look at all possible site options that may be available.

SITE ANALYSIS

On July 19, 2016 the Elder Council established a 'Site Analysis Team' to study all possible alternatives for constructing a 30,070 square foot building. Four properties were identified as possible building sites: Myrtle Johnson/Irvin property on the southwest side of Cokato, the 20 acres currently owned by Elim commonly known as the Borg/Nyquist land, the Trailstone out lot in conjunction with 7 acres of Nyquist



land, and the current Elim property on the corner of Broadway and 4th Street. The Site Analysis Team made a recommendation to the Elder Council that the Trailstone/Nyquist properties be the primary site for the construction of a new church facility. This recommendation was approved by the Elim Church members at the September 2016 meeting.

OUR MISSION CAMPAIGN

"A Light Unto Future Generations" is the theme for the stewardship campaign which was officially commissioned at Sunday morning services on April 9, 2017. We have in front of us the opportunity to take a step of faith, trusting God to supply the funds necessary for this building project. The goal for this stewardship campaign is to raise \$1.5 million dollars as the "trigger level", which would allow us to go to the next step of construction. But the miracle goal is that we would have no debt.



An additional goal for the campaign is that there would be wide participation. It is our desire to involve the entire church family in prayer and participation. This would include all those who consider Elim their church home.

Finally, it is a goal that we would all experience "JOY". A joy that comes because we see and experience God at work amongst us.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN EVENT

Over three-weeks in October 2017, the Elim Mission family will be invited to participate in our Capital Campaign Event.

October 15

The Elim Church family will worship together at the Performing Arts Center at the D-C High School. The service will include an all-church challenge and each family will receive a commitment card. Commitment cards will be returned on October 22 at during the Sunday service.

October 22

Commitment cards will be collected during the offering at Elim.

October 29

Celebration Dinner for the Elim Family at the Dassel Covenant Church Fellowship Hall with announcement of funds committed, 5:30 pm.

MAKING YOUR COMMITMENT

We are asking that each one who calls Elim Mission Church their home to make a three-year financial commitment toward this ministry expansion effort. If we are to reach our goal, it is going to take the sacrificial giving of each of us. As each of us gives sacrificially according to our ability, our gifts, when taken together, will make this new facility a reality.

Every gift will make a difference.

WAYS TO GIVE

There are many ways to support the vision for a new facility including prayer, active support or your financial contributions. As we explore a capital campaign for this project, we ask you to consider different ways you can help fund that campaign for this project.

Here are some ideas of assets to consider giving to our campaign:

- Gift of cash, check or money order
- Appreciated stock
- Bonds, mature funds
- Gifts of life insurance
- Gifts of real estate
- Tangible personal property (i.e. – Jewelry, Autos, Boats, etc.)
- IRA transfers for those aged 70 ½
- and many more

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. Elim Mission Church considered building ten years ago (2006) and conducted a capital campaign at that time. What happened to the money that was raised through this prior stewardship drive?

A. Approximately \$450,000 was raised through the 2006 *“Make A Difference”* campaign. This money has been invested in interest bearing CDs and is available for use. The total amount of money that is in building fund CDs through this prior stewardship campaign and additional gifts to the building fund is \$693,691.

Q. What is the earliest date that construction could begin, and how long does it take to construct a church facility?

A. Should all the funding be in place at the conclusion of the *“A Light into future generations”* stewardship campaign, the proposed groundbreaking ceremony would be in the spring of 2018. If the new facility is constructed in a ten-eleven month time frame, the first worship service in the new facility would be in early 2019.

Q. In advancing the concept of a new church facility, did the elders have any guiding principles in which they desired to adhere to?

A. The elders advanced the vision for a new church facility through a Program Statement with two guiding principles:

1. The Principle of Focus: We should proceed with the building process only when we can do so without shifting our primary focus of carrying out our mission of helping people come to know Christ, grow in faith, and become engaged in ministry.
2. The Principle of Provision: We should build only when we can do so within the income God has provided and without using funds needed for the church’s present and future ministries to people.

Q. What are the primary funding mechanisms that will be used in financing a new church facility?

A. The Finance and Stewardship team is looking at four sources of income to fund a new church facility.

1. Cash on Hand: The goal is to have approximately one million dollars cash on hand at the time of groundbreaking.
2. Stewardship Campaign: The goal for the the Stewardship Campaign to trigger construction is \$1.5 million dollars.
3. Sales of Church Property: The church building and parsonage are currently listed with a commercial real estate agent at \$595,000.

4. Financing: The goal is to finance through a mortgage lender, no more than \$1.5 million dollars.

Q. What is the "*A Light into future generations*" commitment card all about, and how does it work?

A. In October of 2018 you will receive a commitment card and will be asked to prayerfully consider how you might support Elim's vision of constructing a new church facility to serve God's kingdom now and through future generations. This will involve an increased financial commitment over and above your current giving level. The pledges received through these commitment cards will be over a three year period. For some families this may be a one-time gift. For other families it may be an increased weekly giving over the three year period. Every family will need to prayerfully seek God's direction as to how they can best participate.