



## Project Description Narrative

### **History of the building:**

Built in the 1840s, the building was originally designed as a place of worship, or a church; when A small group of members first held Methodist worship services in the Town Hall in 1842. Only four years later, two Methodist churches were built in Leicester, this one, Wesleyan Methodist, and the other, Methodist Episcopal, in Cherry Valley. In 1867, both groups joined together as Wesleyan Methodist, and continued to meet in this building. In 1892, the church was "beautifully refurbished" and served the congregation for 37 years as the Sanderson Methodist Church. However, membership decreased and finally the church disbanded. Leicester Grange #390 bought the building on April 24, 1929. Known as "the farmers' association," the Grange emphasized projects in home and community services such as sponsoring the "annual fair" and providing the original bandstand. Until September 14, 1988, when dissolved, the Grange was the center of activity for many Leicester residents. The building was empty for only a short time. It was purchased in December 1989, and returned to its original function as a place of worship for the Church of Christ and later to be sold in May 2006. Since then, the building was used for a retail lighting store until June 2022, when it was purchased to be restored again as a place of worship. The building consists of brick and stone wall foundation with Wood stud wall framing and wood trussed pitched roof. The exterior is a wood clapboard siding. The building is 1 story with a rear balcony That is no longer in use. There is a full basement with a walk-out in the Rear as well as on the left side.

### **Project Scope:**

To convert space back into a church (A 3) use on the first floor; And storage and private offices in the basement.

### **Change in Occupancy:**

From type 'M' office use to to 'A-3' assembly for Religious use.

**Our Purpose:**

The building was purchased with our own funds along with the necessary renovation. Our sole purpose is to use the building as a place of worship and teaching the biblical principles set forth in God's word. To bring spiritual guidance, prayer and inner restoration to anyone in need. Our desire is to prepare others in the community in the service of the Lord, through biblical formation based on the Scripture, and to be a blessing in community of Leicester. We are praying and hope to contribute to the community not only in the spiritual sense, but also in physical need. The building is intended to be used only as a place of worship and service to the community; which with God's help we will do with distinction.

**Form of operation:**

We are looking to have three services a week, which are separated as follows: a prayer service, a teaching service, and the general assembly to be held on Sundays, each service will be approximately 2 hours. Currently there are no employees in our church ministry in which Pastors Janice and Peter DiGioia, and Pastor Rev. Jay Werman and others are all volunteers.

**Number of Existing Parking Spaces:**

When we first bought the building, we were led to believe that we could have up to 20 parking spaces, only to find out later that this was not the case. We are currently working to find a solution to the problem so that we can obtain the appropriate building permit and complete the renovation of the building.

**Permits:**

So far we had obtained permits for the roofing and siding, which have been completed. We have applied for the building permit to continue with the restoration of the building to bring it up to compliance.