

FOUNDATION LOANS

Great Success Story Gets Even Better

On the evening of Palm Sunday, 2009, fire broke out at Northwood United Methodist Church in Lafayette, La. It took firefighters several hours to extinguish the fire, which damaged 75 percent of the church, including the sanctuary, office and classroom space.

When Rev. Ann Sutton arrived as the new senior pastor just a few months later, the congregants had been working hard to restore their place of worship.

Insurance proceeds provided enough to pay off the existing loan, but not enough to build a new church. Obviously, this posed a challenge.

That’s when the church called the Foundation, who led the church through a capital campaign and used the commitments from the campaign to provide first a line of credit to begin the rebuilding process, and then a permanent loan to finance the new church.

“After the smoke cleared, we built a brand new worship center with a slightly lower monthly payment,” claimed Rev. Sutton. “We were very blessed because of the hard work and commitment of our church members,” she said.

So, the church ends up with better facilities and a lower payment. Great success story, right? But the story gets even better.

Three years later, an inquiry to purchase some of the church’s acreage led the trustees to explore the value of the property. This resulted in the sale of this property to the land-locked Catholic church next door. This sale, which will not inhibit Northwood’s future growth, was just enough to pay off the new building loan in full! What a blessing!

Then the church made a courageous decision. From the income of the sale, the church designated 10 percent (a biblical tithe) to establish a disaster gift fund at the Foundation. The church is saving this money to give to another congregation that may experience a similar hardship in the future.

Northwood was blessed and in turn will become a blessing to others.

The United Methodist Foundation of Louisiana is ready to help your church in challenging times. We hope we can assist your church in making its story even better!



Northwood UMC in Lafayette as it looks today.