

# Growing the Mission



**Evangelical  
Covenant Church**  
Princeton, IL

**2022 Capital Campaign**  
24 N. Main St., Princeton IL 61356  
815-875-2124  
[www.eccprinceton.org](http://www.eccprinceton.org)

# Growing the Mission



## Our Mission



The Evangelical Covenant Church in Princeton, Illinois invites people of all ages and backgrounds into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

Whoever you are, you are welcome!

## Our Values

We've found hope and new life from our relationship with Jesus Christ – a divine life that flows from the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

This new life meets our deepest longings. In response, we value:

- o Encountering God's presence through worship, where our spiritual needs are met.
- o Embracing God's people through small groups and ministry opportunities, where our need for genuine community is met.
- o Engaging in God's purposes for our community and the world, where our need for meaningful action is met.



## Did you know?

- Attendance at Vacation Bible School has had to be capped in recent years because our building is full!
- Every classroom and meeting space is used on Wednesday evenings for children's, student, and adult ministry activities, some of the rooms too small for the numbers attending.
- According to fire codes, our Fellowship Hall has a capacity of less than 90! We can no longer safely hold all-church meals or events in that space.
- Restrooms are not ADA compliant and only 1 entry/exit to the building is accessible by wheelchairs.
- The elevator is too small to hold a casket.
- The Youth House only holds 15 students for discipleship and fellowship gatherings, and the structure needs many repairs and updates.
- Storage is very limited in the church building; every nook and cranny is being used.

# A Brief History

- 1868** Our congregation was formed at the farm of Jonas Person, southeast of Princeton, and became known as the Swedish Mission Church. They soon built a schoolhouse in which to meet.
- 1872** Membership grew to 120 members and a structure was built in Princeton for \$1200.
- 1877** The congregation rapidly grew, so the building was traded for property on Main St. where a larger structure was built. It was remarkable that the church had grown to 230 members, and 3 church buildings were built in less than 10 years time! Still in use, our sanctuary is the oldest church building in the Covenant denomination.
- 1921** The church added a front entry, vaulted ceiling, pipe organ and large stained glass windows at a cost of \$30,000.
- 1951** The Catholic church that sat on the corner of Main and Central was purchased for \$22,500, moved and attached to the sanctuary, now used as our chapel and nursery.
- 1967** The congregation voted to initiate a building program for a new church.
- 1980** After 13 years of discussion, planning, fundraising and construction, the building as we know it was completed. Total project cost was \$619,000 of which over \$300,000 had been raised, but a mortgage of \$300,000 was also needed. For a church with an annual budget of just \$100,000 this was quite a step of faith. Through generous giving during 2 additional fund drives, the building mortgage was paid off in 1988, and by 1992, the church was completely debt-free.



Since its formation in 1868, our congregation has placed their trust in the Lord's leading and made huge steps of faith to grow, adapt and continue the mission!

“ **Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the Lord.**  
Haggai 1:8 ”

## Our Mission is Growing!

In 2018 a Vision Team formed to look at our building's use and limitations.

They identified 11 facility needs which include:

- o a large space in which our church family can gather for fellowship and into which we can welcome our community
- o more indoor activity space for preschool, children and student ministries
- o additional classrooms and small group gathering areas
- o an inviting student ministry space
- o storage for all church ministries

In 2020, and again in 2021, the membership voted to proceed with a 3-year capital campaign to fund construction of a new facility west of the alley, and to repurpose rooms in the existing building.

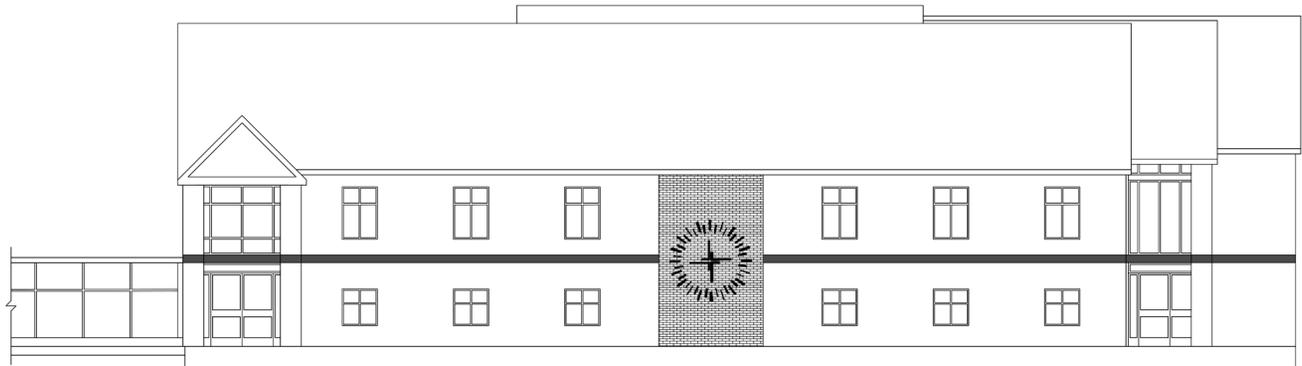
Conceptual Drawing of Church Addition



SOUTH ELEVATION – PROPOSED NEW BUILDING  
SCALE = 3/16" = 1'-0"



ELEVATION – SOUTH  
N.T.S.



SOUTH ELEVATION – PROPOSED ADDITION TO EXISTING BUILDING  
SCALE = 3/16" = 1'-0"



24 NORTH MAIN STREET  
PRINCETON, ILLINOIS 61356

DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY
05/09/2019	DESIGN FOR REVIEW	BCF
05/09/2019	REVISED FOR REVIEW	BCF
05/09/2019	REVISED FOR REVIEW	BCF
05/09/2019	REVISED FOR REVIEW	BCF
05/09/2019	CONGREGATIONAL REVIEW	BCF

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CLIENT: EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH  
24 NORTH MAIN STREET  
PRINCETON, ILLINOIS 61356

DESIGN: BENJAMIN FISHER  
Key Builders Construction Inc.  
Cell: 815.276.8115  
Email: bfisher@kbc-inc.com

SCALE: "VARIES"  
DATE: 05/09/2019  
DRAWN: BCF  
CHECKED:

PROPOSED RE-DESIGN  
SOUTH ELEVATION

SHEET #  
**A-2.1**

# Why are we planning to expand?

We will expand our existing facility to welcome people who do not currently attend ECC, deepen the relationships with those who do attend, and invest in the future of generations to come.

## Just a few of the possibilities for ministry with additional space:

- Increase capacity at children's ministry events, like VBS and CovKids.
- Allow for fellowship and dine together as a whole church family with seating capacity up to 300.
- Add more classrooms and gathering spots for small groups of all kinds.
- Create space for community groups to utilize and privacy for specialized programs in a non-threatening setting.
- Provide large activity space for children and adults of all ages to enjoy recreationally in any weather.
- Include full ADA accessibility in the new structure.
- Host community events of many kinds.
- Create storage space that will be organized and efficient.
- Build modern kitchen facilities to meet the needs of any function.
- Serve as a community relief center in the event of a local emergency.

“

**When God calls people,  
He connects them to a place.**

**Rev. C John Weborg**

”



# What is it going to take?

Current estimates are \$1.7 – 2.0 million to construct a 10,000-12,000 sq. ft. facility west of the alley and repurpose part of the space in the existing building. This is a large number but very achievable. Here's how we can make this a reality:

Growing the Mission campaign goal	\$1,250,000
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Utilize funds already given for this purpose and some savings	\$250,000 - \$400,000
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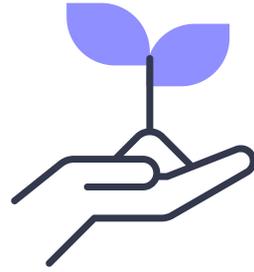
Obtain a mortgage from National Covenant Properties	\$200,000 - \$350,000
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Total Funding	\$1,700,000 - \$2,000,000
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We are committed to raising 50% of the project cost before starting construction. This makes First Fruits giving in the first year of the campaign essential to getting the project started.

All funds given above the campaign goal will 1) reduce the amount of debt needed, 2) enable remaining facility needs to be addressed.

## How you can participate in Growing the Mission



- 1) **Pray** for God's direction both as individuals and as a church body! Prayer opportunities include the 40 Days of Prayer, Community Prayer Walk, Prayer Journey and 12 Hours of Prayer. Pick up guides at the church or online.
- 2) **Join** an in-formal gathering of your choice hosted in living rooms around Princeton during March. Bring your questions and join others in conversation about how we can grow as a church! Sign up in the narthex by March 6 or call Linda Kulupka at 815-915-6725.
- 3) **Attend** the Vision Event on **March 20** following worship. Share in the excitement of how ECC can grow in mission. Bring your visions for ministry at ECC and any questions!
- 4) **Complete** a Commitment Card, make a First Fruits offering, bring it on **April 10** or mail to the church office. You may also go online to the campaign page at [www.eccprinceton.org](http://www.eccprinceton.org), and give via the Tithe.ly link.
- 5) **Celebrate** with us on **Sunday, April 10**. This will be a time of giving our offering and commitments for the campaign and rejoicing in what the Lord can accomplish with our mission as a church!



We ask everyone who calls ECC Princeton home to prayerfully consider giving sacrificially for a 3-year period, over and above regular general fund and mission support.

“ **Everyone must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.**  
2 Corinthians 9:7 ”

By doing so, we can further our Lord's commission of Growing the Mission!

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# Growing the Mission



## Growing the Mission Co-Campaign Directors

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