**To:** Pastor Jesse Ruch

MUMC Church Council

**From:**  Sanctuary Rebuild Team

**Date:** October 26, 2021

**Subject: Architect Recommendation – Wm. Michael Campbell AIA Architect**

**Background**

MUMC discovered some issues with cracking in the walls of the sanctuary and engaged engineers to further investigate the cause. It was determined the cracks were caused by damaged roof trusses and subsequent bowing of the masonry unit walls. It was also determined the proper mitigation for the damage would be to replace the roof and trusses of the sanctuary along with repairs and bolstering of the walls. In the meantime, the sanctuary roof is being supported by scaffolding owned by MUMC.

While the sanctuary is uninhabitable, MUMC has been holding worship services in a temporary arrangement in the Family Life Center next door to the sanctuary building.

**Letter of Interest Solicitation**

In order to identify an Architectural/Engineering firm (A/E) to design a new worship space that meets the needs of our congregation and community, MUMC issued a Letter of Interest (LOI) Solicitation on August 6, 2021. The LOI established a target budget for the design and construction of $1 million, specified the A/E must be registered to do business in the State of New Jersey, and provided our basic project goals:

* Create new worship space
* Incorporate flexibility in the worship space design
* Focus on interior worship space (versus shell)
* Maintain Underground space (sanctuary basement)
* Maintain or upgrade existing Mechanical, Plumbing and Electrical systems
* Maintain front façade/steeple
* Explore the addition of campus outbuildings
* Begin construction in the Summer of 2022

The LOI was sent to four (4) architectural firms in the New Jersey-Pennsylvania area that had prior familiarity with or outreached to MUMC in the recent past. Solicitations were sent to Lammey + Giorgio Architects, Seiler + Drury Architecture, Jon Harris Architect, and Wm. Michael Campbell AIA, Religious Architecture. Interested A/Es were asked to submit a Letter of Interest (3 pages maximum), including relevant experience, team composition, and a brief statement regarding MUMC’s basic project goals and target budget no later than August 31, 2021.

The Sanctuary Rebuild Team received letters of interest from Seiler + Drury and Wm. Michael Campbell in the prescribed timeframe. The team had videoconferences and telephone calls with both architects to further discuss the project, after which both firms submitted cost proposals for consideration.

Both architects have similar years of professional experience and have overall competitive and comparable cost proposals when contingency costs are factored in. While both architects have experience with designing churches, Wm. Michael Campbell has extensive experience with religious architecture generally, and with projects involving United Methodist churches, specifically. The Rebuild Team obtained two exemplary recommendations from United Methodist clergy with whom Mr. Campbell had completed work. The team felt very comfortable with Mr. Campbell’s understanding of our project goals and timeline and believe he would be a good fit for our project.

Based on the above-referenced factors, the Sanctuary Rebuild Team would like to recommend that Marlton United Methodist Church secure the services of Wm. Michael Campbell AIA Architect to lead the design work for our new worship space.