

# MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH



*"Where there is no vision, the people perish." - Proverbs 29:18*



**BUILDING** UP **REACHING** OUT

**COMMUNITY  
LIFE CENTER  
FUND  
APPEAL**

Mt. Zion Baptist Church continues to invest in the community and make a difference in the lives of its people. Their latest commitment to build a community family life center highlights their belief in the importance of building community and family. This kind of center will bring the needed resources to the very difficult issues of poverty - education, employment, counseling and supporting strong families through positive parenting and mentoring. This endeavor

demonstrates a continuation of Mt. Zion Baptist Church's commitment to the community and to confronting issues of social justice.

Carmen Porco  
 Director of Housing Ministries & Community Learning Centers  
 The American Baptist Church in Wisconsin



## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JONES

### Greetings:

The Prophet Habakkuk looked out among his people and what he saw burdened his heart and spirit in such a mighty way that he sought an understanding from the Lord. His heart was so burdened with the issues of his day that he began to cry out to the Lord for answers to the questions that were raised in his heart. As he waited, the Lord spoke unto him and directed him. One of the meanings of the name Habakkuk is "to embrace or to wrestle", and it is imperative for us to both embrace and wrestle with the issues that plague our community.

When we look out at the Madison community we see hurting people and we must pause to ask ourselves, "How long shall we see the hurt before we reach out to make a difference in the lives of the people who call our community home?" We are called to become difference makers. We are commanded to "love our neighbors as ourselves" and our neighbors are defined as those in need. Difference makers meet needs. What will we do? Moral and social decay, drugs, gangs, violence, crime, unemployment, educational deficiencies, and other issues continue to demand our attention and we must never stop seeking God's purpose in our lives, both individually and collectively.

The ministry of Jesus Christ reached out to those in need, and our theme "Building up Reaching out" acknowledges our need to continue to take our ministries beyond the walls of our building and touch the lives of those around us. In order to do this, we will need to move to a new level of service to our community. The development of the Community Life Center will provide us with the necessary facilities to expand our ministries and better serve our community. Please recognize that unless we build, it will be more difficult to reach out.

Since 1911, Mt. Zion has faithfully served the Madison community and it is our desire to move to the next level of service. We must continue the legacy of building that was passed down from great men of God including Pastor Joe Dawson and Pastor James C. Wright. They were visionaries who led Mt. Zion to impact the Madison community in a number of immeasurable ways. We must continue this legacy. Please join us as we continue in "Building up and Reaching out" to the Madison community.

Sincerely,

Rev. Richard L. Jones, Sr.  
 Pastor

This is a marvelously well crafted and designed project that will provide services not only to Mt. Zion members and adjacent neighborhoods, but will also improve the life of the entire city of Madison as well.

It is inspiring to know that the incredible programs designed and planned for Mt. Zion's Community Life Center will support and mold generations of the participants in ways that promote health and spiritual life styles. Achieving this will have immeasurable benefits and serve as a model for church and community collaborations.

Virginia M. Henderson, Ph.D.  
 President, Board of Directors - African American Ethnic Academy, Inc.

On behalf of the Genesis Development Corporation, I support and endorse the efforts of Mt. Zion Baptist Church to construct the Community Life Center. The building and its services will make a positive contribution to the well-being of individual residents not only in South Madison but to citizens of the entire Dane County area.

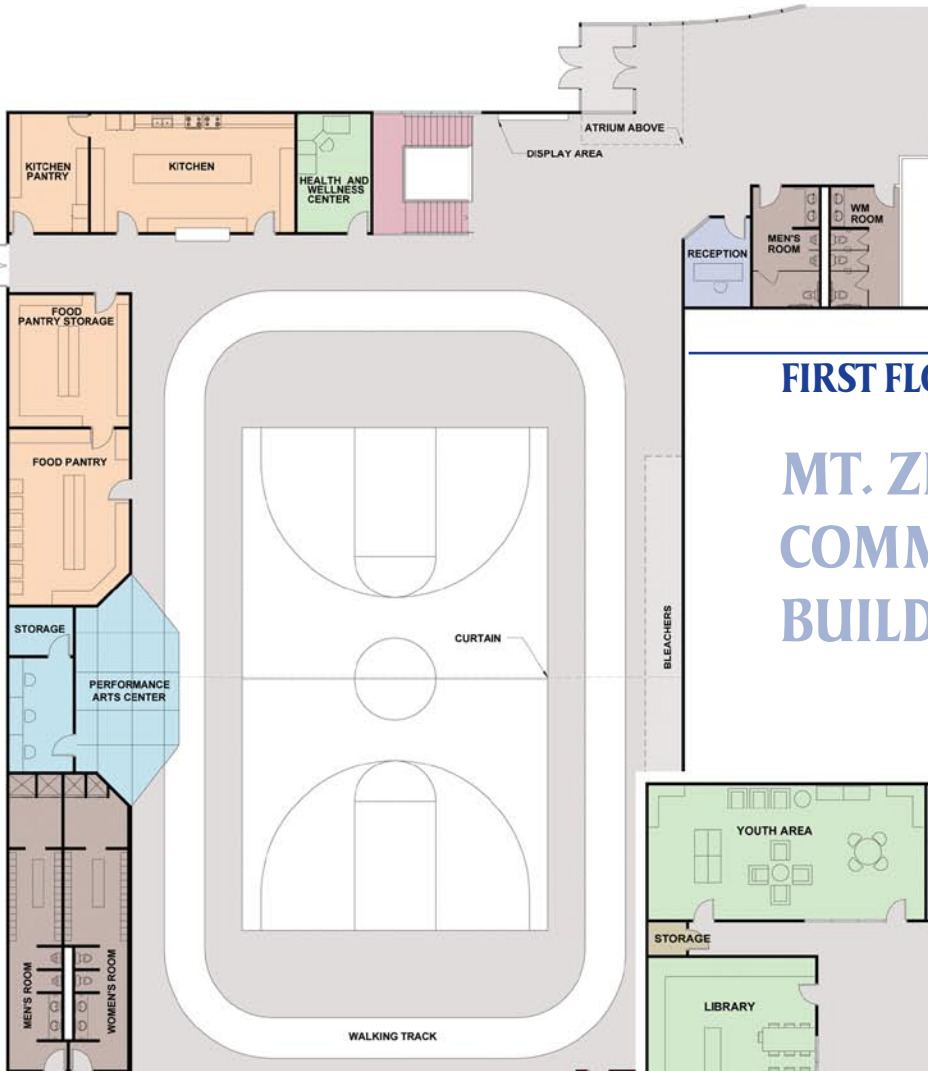
Richard Harris, Ph.D.  
 President/CEO - Genesis Enterprise Center

## OUR APPEAL GOAL

Our goal is to raise \$5 million in contributions and three-year commitments. The Mt. Zion family is committed to providing \$1 million of the \$5 million needed to construct the Community Life Center.

## FIRST FLOOR PLAN

# MT. ZION'S COMMUNITY LIFE CENTER BUILDING PLAN



## LOWER LEVEL FLOOR PLAN

The Mt. Zion Baptist Church Community Life Center will extend educational opportunities for students after school, in the evenings and on weekends in a safe, adult-supervised environment. The center will be a community asset to support student achievement in our district.

Johnny Winston, Jr.  
President - Madison School Board

The commitment to our community by the members and leadership of Mt. Zion Baptist Church is remarkable. The Community Life Center is yet another amazing example of the level of dedication and love the Mt. Zion family has shared with all of us for the past 95 years.

LaMarr Billups  
Former Senior Special Assistant to the Chancellor - The University of Wisconsin



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## THE COMMUNITY LIFE CENTER OUTREACH

Building the Community Life Center will help Mt. Zion's outreach grow. Some examples of the expanded outreach are:

- > The Food Pantry will have accessible and improved space.
- > The After School Tutorial Program will have classrooms, a computer lab, a library, a book club and conference rooms.
- > The Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Ministry will have AODA counseling/referral center offices and meeting rooms.
- > The Homeless Meal Ministry will prepare and serve meals at the center.
- > The Health & Wellness Center will include office space, a gym, a walking track, and an exercise room for all ages.
- > The Basketball Ministry, which currently uses limited space at the Boys and Girls Club in South Madison, will be expanded. It will also host tournaments.
- > The Youth Ministry will have a teen center for recreational, educational, employment networking/assistance and support programs for the community's youth.
- > The Social Service Center, including Project UJIMA, will be managed by the non-profit Genesis Development Corporation to provide family/parenting services, mental health counseling and information on the treatment of asthma and AIDS prevention.
- > The Performance Arts Center will be used by the community for rehearsals and performances including theater/drama presentations and cultural enrichment.

## The Community Life Center Fund Appeal Leadership Team

### Pastor

Reverend Richard L. Jones, Sr.

### Appeal Chairpersons

Percy Brown and Joe Thomas

### Team Members

Lawrence Allen, Angela Arrington, Betty Banks, LeeAnne Banks, Greg Belin, Gladis Benavides, Gloria Billings, Stephen Blue, Brenda Brown, Charles Brown, Lee Dannard, Charles Doram, Richard Harris, Richard Hegwood, Georgia Henderson, Boyce Hodge, Jerlando Jackson, Charles Jones, Tommie Jones, Farrell Joshua, Darrel Linder, Dwight McDonald, Candace McDowell, Tambura Omoiele, Marilyn Ruffin, Charles Sims, Ritchie Sturgeon, Christine Thomas, Mona Adams Winston, Jacqueline Wright and Bob Wynn

### Photos:

Uchenna Oraedu and Milele Chikasa Anana

