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# Unity Church Begins Bold New Chapter After Sale of Longtime Home

**MILWAUKEE, WI** — After more than five decades at its longtime location on Milwaukee Avenue in Wauwatosa, Unity Church is beginning a new chapter—one focused not on preserving a building, but on investing in its mission.

On June 30, the City of Wauwatosa completed the purchase of the church property at 1717 N. 73rd Street. Under the agreement, Unity Church and its preschool tenant, Children's Workshop, will continue using the building through the coming year while preparing to relocate.

For Unity's leadership, the decision represents more than a real estate transaction. It is a deliberate choice to position the congregation for future growth.

"Our board came to realize that the greatest value wasn't the building—it was the opportunity the property created," said Russell Gnant, President of the Board of Trustees. "Selling the property allows us to invest in people instead of concrete. We believe the church is the people, not the building."

Originally constructed in 1958 as the West Suburban YMCA, the building has served Unity Church since 1973. Like many aging facilities, increasing maintenance costs and infrastructure challenges made it more difficult to devote resources to ministry and community outreach.

Rather than continue investing in an aging facility, the congregation chose to embrace a different future.

"This isn't about closing a church," Gnant said. "It's about creating a stronger one. We're asking what church should look like over the next generation and how we can best serve our community."

During the coming year, the congregation will identify a new location that better supports its vision of being an accessible, welcoming, and vibrant spiritual community.

Unity Church also plans to launch a long-range initiative known as **Unity Milwaukee 2031**, a strategic vision focused on growth, leadership development, community engagement, and expanding its impact throughout the Milwaukee area.

"Every organization reaches a point where it has to decide whether to preserve the past or prepare for the future," Gnant said. "We chose the future. Five years from now, I hope people won't know Unity because of where we meet—they'll know us because of the difference we make."

Church leaders hope their experience will encourage other faith communities facing similar decisions to view change not as a loss, but as an opportunity to renew their mission.

## About Unity Church

Unity Church is an inclusive, positive-path spiritual community serving the greater Milwaukee area. Rooted in practical Christianity, Unity welcomes people of all backgrounds who seek spiritual growth, meaningful connection, and opportunities to serve others.

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