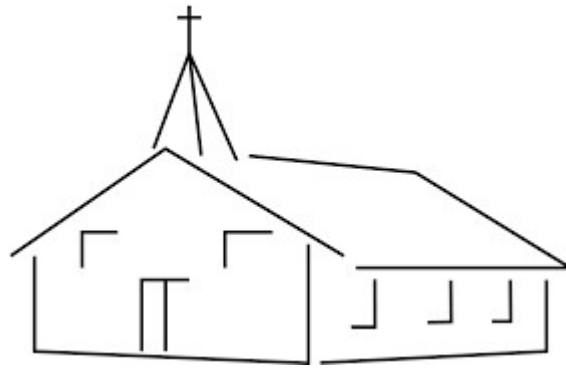


Hmong Mennonite Church

Building project

2021-2023



Hmong Mennonite Church Building Proposal

1. Background Information and Justification:

During the early 1980s the Western District Conference (WDC) of the General Conference Mennonite Church under the leadership of Steven W. Goering, pastor of Boulder Mennonite Church and WDC Colorado Conference Minister initiated efforts that ultimately led to the establishment of a Hmong Mennonite Church in the Denver, Colorado, metropolitan area. Under Goering's guidance, Stan and Marlene Smucker, co-pastors of Arvada Mennonite Church agreed to provide oversight and a meeting place for a Hmong congregation.

Thereafter, the Arvada church sponsored several Hmong refugee families and provided them with a plot on the church property for gardening. As word of the available land spread, the gardening project expanded to include additional Hmong refugees. During the early 1990s the Frontier Village Foundation provided a grant to install water lines for irrigating the gardens. By the late 1990s, some 30 families gardened. Additional financial support for the establishment of a Hmong congregation came from the General Conference Mennonite Church's "City On the Hill" program as well as the Rocky Mountain Mennonite Conference of the Mennonite Church.

Subsequent discussions for planting a Hmong Mennonite Church in Arvada began in late 1994 when Pastor Shoua Moua and wife Chou Vang Moua, who had established a Hmong Mennonite Church in Fresno, California, visited the Denver area to conduct strategy planning with representatives of the Western District and Rocky Mountain Mennonite conferences and Denver-area Mennonite congregations. In March 1995 Shoua Moua started a church planting ministry among Hmong refugees who had settled in the Arvada area and other cities nearby.

In August 1996, a group began meeting for weekly Bible study, and by the spring of 1997, a core group of 12-14 adults and six to eight children attended regularly.

In 1997 the Arvada Mennonite Church and Western District and Rocky Mountain conferences jointly sponsored the formal organization of the Hmong Mennonite Church in Arvada. On 6 June 1997, an organizing service for the Hmong church, which had grown to about 20 families, was convened, and the new congregation dually affiliated with both of its sponsoring conferences.

During 1997-2001, Mervin and Jane Dick, part-time Northern Area Ministers of the Rocky Mountain Mennonite Conference, represented the conference's interests in working with the Western District Conference to encourage Hmong congregational development. The newly-established congregation began using the facilities of the Arvada Mennonite Church for regular worship and fellowship in June 1997, but by the early 2000s the church's attendance increased to an average of 80-100. In June 2005, the congregation began renting the facilities of the Westminster United Methodist Church and as to this day, the congregation still continued to meet on Sunday afternoons as of 2017.

In 2006 the Hmong Mennonite Church became a charter member of the newly-established Mountain States Mennonite Conference. During the formation of the new conference and subsequent to its establishment, Mervin and Jane Dick continued to provide liaison between the conference and the Hmong congregation (Dick Marven, 2006).

In 2006 Shoua Moua returned to Fresno to continue his pastoral ministry to Hmong Community Mennonite. At the same time, in 2007 the Hmong Mennonite Church in Denver invited Rev. Vang Kou Yang from Thailand to become the congregation's pastor, a position in which he continued to serve as senior pastor until 2012. In May 31, 2012, Pastor Vang Kou resigned his pastoral ministry with HMC of Colorado in order to achieve God's calling him to different ministry. After more than a year of intensive prayer, God answered our prayers and found our congregation a new pastor Chaiya Hadtasunsern also known as Wachia Yang who earned his Master of Divinity in Pastoral Care and Counseling at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in 2014. Currently, he serves our Lord Jesus Christ in the Hmong Mennonite Church as a senior pastor.

We currently have a total of 23 members consisting of 91 members which includes Men, Women, Youth and Children. Our congregation's family averages between five to six members within a family. We enjoy spending time together, whether it's on Sunday or any other day; although, we may be a small herd at the moment, we are strong and faithful to our Lord and Savior and to each other.

Our Mission

“We lead people to Christ, equip our people for a significant fellowship, discipleship, evangelism, worship, ministry and a mission-mind with Anabaptist and Hmong traditions by helping them discover the spiritual gifts God gave them and living in harmony together”

Our Vision

“To be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God

2. Problem Analysis:

- a) Fellowship Hall Rental: The Hmong Mennonite Church has been renting the United Methodist Church (UMC) Fellowship Hall for over ten years. The building where we conduct our worship today is limited in regard to time, day and space. At the same time, the sanctuary is not an appropriate place to worship God according to our worship style.
- b) Room for Sunday school: The current building room availability is limited; therefore, affecting the congregation Sunday school programs of all ages. Due to the limited rooms, the Sunday school teachers in different group would practically search for space before class start which would also limit the planned activities.
- c) Music Ministry: The current worship team has insufficient practice space with limited storage. We believe that worshipping God with music is a key in leading our congregation to grow further in the future.
- d) Administration: Our pastor and staff, for the most part have insufficient office space for meetings, which is too small and ill-equipped to conduct church business.

3. Project Objectives:

In response to the problems identified above, the Hmong Mennonite Church members found that we need to buy a new building for our congregation. Therefore, the needs of our congregation are identified and addressed below for the proposed church building project:

- a) To move from the rental Fellowship Hall to our own Sanctuary and permanent church building. The importance of acquiring our own church building is to provide adequate spaces for current and future ministries and to meet the needs of future generations

- who are looking for a Church to call it home. We believe that now is the time that God is calling our congregation to move to a full ministry and proclaim the Good News to the lost souls.
- b) To acquire our own building and dedicate entirely and exclusively to the Spiritual care and education of our congregation. We believe that this is the priority need for our church members.
 - c) To acquire our own building will provide our congregation a “Welcome or Ministry Center”, which will be a significant place for meetings, guest and visitor gatherings and facilitate fellowships. The purpose of obtaining a new facility is not only for the use of a sanctuary to worship God or a meeting place, but also a resource center to help guide and restore marriage and to provide counseling to those in need or to the bereaved.
 - d) To acquire our own facility will provide sufficient practice space for our worship team. The facility will also be used to teach musical instruments to people in the community, especially Hmong people.
 - e) To acquire our own facility, our congregation will be able to build a “Youth Center” to evangelize to young people. We want to provide a place for them to hang out, to feel comfortable and to have a feeling of ownership. In addition, we can use the Youth Center to share the Gospel to the young people.

4. Project Output and Benefit

The Bible says, “Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18). This facility will provide many benefits for the Hmong Community, Area Conference, Mennonite local churches and community groups as aforementioned above in our objectives.

A. Spiritual and Social Benefit:

Jesus says “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20, NIV). We believe that having our own building will attract and inspire our members, their family and friends and the

Hmong community to worship and be involved in the ministries or event activities. Furthermore, the congregation encourages not only the church member to experience spiritual changes or transformation but would also like to encourage the people in the community. Therefore, to respond to The Great Commission, obtaining our own building would help thrust the training for our church members and send them out to reach people to Him.

B. Economical Benefits:

There were about 20,000 people out in a remote place (Luke 9:12), with many needing healings. They were hungry and there was no place nearby to buy food. Their physical hunger and their inability to satisfy that hunger pictures the spiritual needs of this sinful world. As Jesus will later tell them (6:26-27), they were following Him because they ate their fill of the bread, but they should have been focused on the food that endures to eternal life. Everyone was looking for Jesus likely because they wanted physical healing. The vision of Hmong Mennonite Church is not only expecting people to get spiritual benefits but also physical benefit. We want to create classes to teach English as Second Language to those who are not fluent in English. We want to see these people be able to apply for job, to see doctor and others as needed without a translator if necessarily. In addition, we will provide a professional counselor for those who are suffering from different addictions, family issues and cultural issues. Furthermore, we want to use our building to heal drug addicted individuals and provide an aid to orphan's kids on the streets, and to elderly Hmong individuals. Moreover, we will provide a professional business person to educate those who are looking to start their own business and be able to depend on their own income.

C. Meeting place:

The Hmong Mennonite Church would like to offer the building to every group in the community such as Area Conference, Local churches and the Hmong community to use the facility for meetings, training and other occasion as needed. The facility will be a place that is available seven days a week with advance reservations or last-minute reservation, with a wide variety of church activities.

D. A Sanctuary (Holy Place), Classrooms and Offices:

"For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp" (Hebrews 13:11; Matthew 24:15; Acts 6:13). In accordance with the Old Testament, the temple at Jerusalem is called the sanctuary or the holy

place. Jesus says, "Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full" (Luke 14:23, NIV).

The Hmong Mennonite Church has been established for over twenty years, but we are not growing according to our vision and mission. One of the reasons is because we don't have our own sanctuary to express our love, faithfulness and worship toward God. This sanctuary is a place for our people to hear the Gospel, to publicly bear witness our faith and trust in God (Matthew 10:32-33). The Apostle Paul said, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17).

Sunday school class is very important for our church member to study the Bible. The bible study workshops nurtures, builds and helps our church members mature in Christ.

E. Size of Church Facility:

We have discussed and agreed on two possible options when purchasing a new building for our congregation, those are:

1. Purchasing a completed church building based on the Church Building Project funds collected, with seating for 150 people, at least two class rooms for children, one class room for youth, two class rooms for adult, one dining hall and one staff and minister's office.
2. If the Church Building Project funds do not meet our budgeted goal, we will purchase a non-finished building, an abandon building or an empty place with a lower cost and remodel the building to fit the needs of the aforementioned seats and rooms.

5. The Project Time-Line

The congregational vote on the initial proposal was scheduled on Sunday, January 3, 2016. The project was approved, and has since collected faith promise contributions from members within the congregation, fundraised and received outside donations from 2016 through the end of November 30, 2020.

Recapping the Church Building Committee and their roles

In 2015, the Church Building Committee was elected by the Hmong Mennonite Church congregation, consisting of three people. In addition, the Board of elders has a minimum of five people and three advisors.

a. Church Building Committee 2015 to 2018

Effective 12/13/2020

<i>Thai Moua</i>	<i>Chair</i>
<i>Tatdao Yang</i>	<i>Assistant 1</i>
<i>Shoua Yang</i>	<i>Assistant 2</i>

b. Board of Elder

<i>Tou Yang</i>	<i>Co-Chair</i>
<i>Teng Thao</i>	<i>Committee</i>
<i>Pao Thao</i>	<i>Committee</i>
<i>Lue Xiong</i>	<i>Committee</i>
<i>Rev. Chaiya Yang</i>	<i>Co-chair</i>

c. Special Advisors

<i>Rev. Komin Yang</i>	<i>Assistant pastor</i>
<i>Koua Xiong</i>	<i>Elder</i>

The Church Building Committee and the Board of Elders were the primary group responsible for the financials, drafting the church building proposal, searching for church location and presenting church building project to the congregation and other church building project as needed. The Church Building Committee and the Board of Elders role is to make sure that relevant factors were carefully considered before presenting it to the congregation for approval as needed. The Church Building Committee and the Board of Elders are responsible for investigating and determining if the new building and its location is adequate with sufficient seating, parking and environment wise for the Hmong community.

The decisions made by the Church Building Committee and the Board of Elders are binding for the Hmong Mennonite Church congregation; therefore, all meetings minutes are kept and preserved. The Church Building Committee and the Board of Elders are required to read and review the building proposal to ensure that they understand and comprehend the financial stability and the actual proposal facts.

Recapping the Church Building Fund Project Policy and Budgeting

In 2015, Reverend Chaiya Hadasunsern took the lead in writing the church building proposal and presented it to the Church Building Committee, Board of Elders and Advisors for

review. When the review was completed, the church building proposal was then presented to the congregation for approval before sending it to the supporters. In order to reflect the stewardship and ministry intent of the contribution to Hmong Mennonite Church Building Project, financial estimates were as followed:

- a) A Building in the amount of \$600,000 or less
- b) A down payment amount of \$178,000; which consists of the following \$150,000 (or 25% down payment from \$600,000), \$20,000 to pay debts and related interest cost of the loan for five years after purchased and \$8,000 for maintenance. The full amount of the restricted fund was forecasted to be accomplished by 2020 to reach our goal.
- c) The initial proposal length was five years, from 2015-2020.

Recapping the HMC initial Building Project Budgeting

Expenses	Income
Notice: 25% down payment Building cost of \$600,000 is:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ \$150,000 Down payment+ Closing Costs ➤ \$20,000 Monthly payment <i>(5 months after purchasing the building)</i> ➤ 8,000 Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Faith Promise (HMC Members): <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Couple family (\$4,000x20) 80,000 <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Single person (\$2000x17) 34,000 <li style="padding-left: 20px;">HMC Fundraisers 10,000 <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Frontier Village 10,000 <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Organization/companies 10,000 <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Mennonite Mission Network 5,000 <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Mennonite Local Churches 5,000 <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Mennonite Men and Women 2,000 <li style="padding-left: 20px;">MSMC 2,000 <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Western District Conference 2,000 <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Hmong Mennonite Churches 1,000 <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Mennonite District Conference 1,000 <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Atlantic Coast Conference 1,000 <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Virginia Mennonite Conference 1,000 <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Alleheny Mennonite Conference 1,000

		Central District Conference	1,000
		Central Plains Mennonite Conference	1,000
		Eastern District Conference	1,000
		Illinois Mennonite Conference	1,000
		Mennonite Northern Conference	1,000
		Indiana-Michigan MC	1,000
		Lancaster MC	1,000
		New York MC	1,000
		Ohio MC	1,000
		Pacific Northwest MC	1,000
		Pacific Southwest MC	1,000
		Everence	1,000
		Individual person	1,000
Total	\$178,000	Total	\$178,000

Financial update as of October 2020

When looking back at the five year project, the financial records reflected deposited church building project restricted funds of:

- ✓ \$8,766 in 2016
- ✓ \$15,465 in 2017
- ✓ \$13,611 in 2018
- ✓ \$13,189 in 2019
- ✓ \$11,196 in 2020

for a total of \$62,227 from faith promise and \$19,316.17 in donations and fundraisings. The current restricted fund saved for the church building project as of 12/06/2020 is \$81,543.17.

We fully recognize that the current economy situation poses challenges for all of us; however, the longer we wait, the more expensive the project will become and there may be a possibility of decreases in the church growth. In addition, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the incoming revenue for the church building project has slowed down since March of 2020. This pandemic not only slowed the revenue, it also caused cancellations of events that were planned and scheduled for the year 2020. Furthermore, the pandemic also caused closures of church

gatherings, schools and loss of jobs. Our congregation has managed to stay afloat by streaming our Sunday worships via online channels such as Line and Zoom. The ministry leaders concluded most of their fellowship online as well. Offerings and donations were transmitted via mobile apps such as Venmo or FaceBook and online services such as PayPal.

The church building project committee believes that although the economy and the pandemic are currently posing a challenge for our congregation, we will move forward and extend our project goal to three more years from 2021 to 2023 with an updated financial proposal.

6. Extending the Church Building Project Proposal

The extended proposal will take effect immediately fiscal year 12/01/2020 to 11/30/2023. Although, a few members completed their church building project faith promise between years 2016 to 2020, the extended proposal will be viewed as a new commitment, thus; those who were unable to fulfill their faith promise from the initial proposal will start again from zero. Those who completed their faith promise will also start from zero. The committee would like to express gratitude towards the members who have passionately contributed towards their faith promise and encourage them to keep giving generously. As the bible says in proverbs 23:17- do not envy sinners in your heart, instead continue to fear the lord; 18 there is indeed a future, and your hope will never be cut off.

The updated proposal below summarizes the initial estimated goal figures. The changes are adding the current restricted funds and forecasting new faith promise schedules for the next three years, grants and planned contributions from other ministries, fundraisings and others. The calculations for each family are based on current membership status which is at; 17 for married couple and 6 for single and/or widows. Although, there are some dependents and young adult, they will be considered as optional contributors rather than increasing the single or widow number. As little as \$60 a month for each married couple and \$30 for single and widows, we can meet our goal of \$14,400.00 for each year, to three years.

Current # of families:	Monthly	Annual	Calculation	End of Year
17 married couple	60	720	Annual X 17 families	\$12,240
6 single/widow	30	360	Annual X 6 single/widow	\$2,160
				<u>\$14,400</u>

Expenses	
Estimated building loan	\$600,000.00
25% down payment	\$150,000.00
Monthly reserve	\$20,000.00
Maintenance reserve	\$8,000.00
Total Goal	<u>\$178,000.00</u>
Income	
Current restricted fund	\$81,543.17
2021 to 2023 proposal:	
Congregation faith promise	
2021	\$14,400.00
2022	\$14,400.00
2023	\$14,400.00
Frontier Village	\$30,000.00
HMC women x 3 yrs	\$1,500.00
HMC men x 3 yrs	\$1,500.00
HMC youth x 3 yrs	\$1,500.00
Fundraising	\$756.83
\$500 gen fund profit to CBP	\$18,000.00
Total Goal	<u>\$178,000.00</u>

7. Permanent Fund Trustees or Building Committee

In 2015, the Permanent Fund of Hmong Mennonite Church (HMC) was managed by three trustees or Church Building Committee, elected by the congregation. However, due to the changes in the resignation of the committee chair and assistants in 2018 and 2019, the HMC Board of Elders, pastor and the congregation members elected a new chair and updated the committee roles. The new elected church building committees are:

Chair & treasurer:	Maytia Moua	Treasurer	Mao Vang	
		Assistant:		
In-network group:	Pao Thao, Lead (Chair VP)	Lee Vang	Pastor Zang Xiong	Kong Vang
Out-network group:	Teng Thao, Lead	Pastor Chaiya H.	Pastor Komin Yang	
Food group:	Mao Vang, Lead	Aranya H.	Thai Moua	

The congregation has entrusted the Church Building Committee to lead this project and serve as the primary contact for fundraisings or any other activities associated with church building project. All members in the church are accountable for the church building project.

8. Restricted Funds:

The Church Building Fund still stand as initially proposed which is that the restricted fund cannot be spent on unintended purposes unless prior written agreement has been established by the HMC CBP committee. In other words, if the church building project is not successful according to planned and versioned, HMC will hold a congregational meeting and evaluate how and who the church building project funds are distributed to as the funds will not be distributed back to the original donors and contributors. To avoid conflict of interest, the church must provide donors and church members a legal document with explanation as to why his or her donation or contributions towards the church building project cannot be refunded back to him or her. All donors and church members must understand the following:

- a) No Refund: Members who resign or withdraw themselves from the Church.
- b) No Refund: Members who is withdrawn by the church council.
- c) No Refund to anyone if this fund cannot be used to the Building project as described above.
- d) This fund will not be borrowed or loaned to anyone or any organizations.

9. Budget Reports Includes:

Annual, quarterly or monthly by the Building project committee and committee treasurers.

✓ **Anticipate Cost Analysis and Buying the Building**

Once a building is decided or determined, the committee will come up with the final restricted fund budget or final financial forecast and reach out to Everence for financial assistance for either a match or grant for a either a purchase or renovation.

✓ **Project Evaluation**

The Church Building Committee meetings will be held every quarter as part of its internal control, project activity and funds updates. The internal controls of the Church Building Committee are monitored and evaluated by the Board of Elders and Advisors to make sure that

all events, fundraising and activities are relevant to the church building project. If any changes are made on the building project, the Church Building Committee and the Board of Elder must report or set up a congregational meeting to let the congregation know about the changes. The Church Building Committee will then represent and update the project progression to the congregation every quarter. The implication of the reviews would be used for further planning.

10. Proposal Update:

Sanctuary worship room: As of November of 2019, the congregation signed an agreement with UMC for the uses of the sanctuary worship room in addition to the fellowship room where the congregation normally worships. The rental cost increased from \$450 to \$800 a month which took effect 01/01/2020. The congregation began using the sanctuary as of January of 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the churches have been closed since March of 2020. The uses of the sanctuary or any other rooms have been closed off since.

Thai Moua 2015-2018
Project

Pao Thao
HMC Moderator

Rev. Chaiya Yang Hadtasunern
Pastor

Maytia Moua 2019-Current
Project Chair