



# Mt. Zion Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Marcus Allen Sr., Pastor  
2019 Fisher Street Madison, WI 53713

June 11, 2018

Madison Plan Commission  
126 South Hamilton Street  
Madison, WI 53701

RE: Mt. Zion Baptist Church Letter of Intent for Demolition of Two Houses

Dear Plan Commission Members:

Mt. Zion Baptist Church is submitting this application requesting permission to demolish two existing houses, located at 2017 and 2025 Fisher Street in order to provide green space and landscaping for the Church. The 2017 Fisher Street structure is a small two-bedroom house on a concrete slab foundation. Originally built as a parsonage in 1960-61, 2025 Fisher Street is a three-bedroom single-family home with a block basement.

The Church is located at 2019 Fisher Street. As the site is also a conditional use, this application is also submitted as a conditional use alteration to account for the resulting site plan changes. The plan also calls for eliminating an existing concrete driveway and curb cut and replacing it with a pedestrian walkway and new curb; the removal of private walkways in front of the homes and a small storage shed and replacing them with grass/lawn. These improvements will enhance the Church's curb appeal and thus contribute to the overall aesthetic of the neighborhood.

For more than a decade, the Church has used the residential buildings at 2017 and 2025 Fisher Street to house a myriad of programs and services (food pantry, parish nurse ministry, PROJECT UJIMA mental health counseling, class rooms, and meeting space) to better meet the needs of the South Madison Community. However, after the new church building was constructed in 2003-04 (phase 1) and a capital fund-raising campaign was launched for the building of a family life center (phase 2), these houses were no longer used, and ministries were relocated. After sitting vacant over an extended period of time, these structures have become severely infested with mold resulting from water damage. The water came from cracks in the basement walls at 2025 Fisher Street, and a recent busted pipe at 2017 Fisher Street. There is also asbestos in the floor tile at 2017. The asbestos will be removed per all applicable regulations.

As part of the Reuse Plan, the Deconstruction Manager for the Habitat ReStore has walked-through the properties and found no items or materials that the ReStore wanted to take for resale. We also met on-site with the Captain-Training/Hurt Coordinator from the City of Madison Fire Department (MFD) and agreed to grant MFD access to 2025 Fisher Street to conduct training before the unit is demolished. We will be submitting a reuse and recycling plan to the City's Recycling Coordinator for approval. As soon as all necessary permits are granted, we would like to proceed expeditiously in completing the work by November 15, 2018.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Percy Brown, Chair of Building Committee  
Mt. Zion Baptist Church