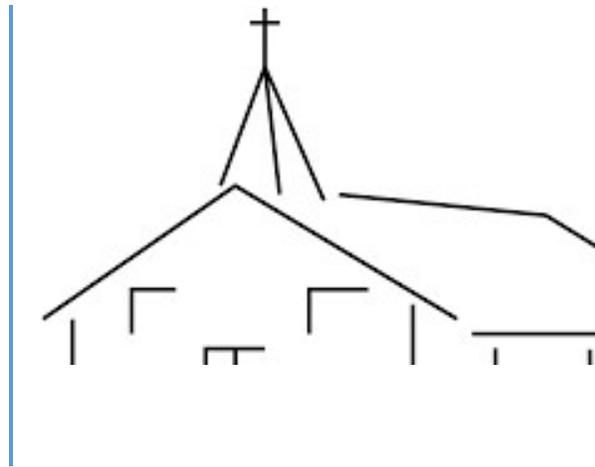


Hmong Mennonite Church

Building project

2016-2020



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 22 members consisting of 115 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) Sanctuary Rental: The Hmong Mennonite Church has been renting the First United Methodist Dining 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 groups 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 Sanctuary to our own Sanctuary and permanent church building. The importance of acquiring our own church building is to provide adequate space 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 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 an un-finished 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 this proposal was scheduled for Sunday January 3, 2016. If the project was approved, the committee would have a clearer picture of what would be planned next. 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. Because of the concerns said, the Hmong Mennonite Church agreed with the purchase of a church facility by the year of 2020.

Step one: Project Ownership and Person who responsible for this Project.

Establish the Church Building Committee - 2015

The Church Building Committee was elected by the Hmong Mennonite Church which consists of three people. The Board of elders has a minimum of five people and three advisors.

a. Church Building Committee

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|----------------|---------------|
| 1) Thai Moua | Chair Person |
| 2) Tatdao Yang | Assistant one |
| 3) Shoua Yang | Assistant two |

b. Board of Elder

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1) Tou Yang | Co-chair-person |
| 2) Teng Thao | Committee |
| 3) Pao Thao | Committee |
| 4) Lue Xiong | Committee |
| 5) Rev. Chaiya Yang | Co-chair-person |

c. Special Advisors

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1) Rev. Vang Kou Yang | Assistant Pastor |
| 3) Koua Xiong | Elder |

The Church Building Committee and the Board of Elders are the primary group responsible for the financing, writing the church building proposal, seeking for a new church location and presenting church building project to the congregation and other church building project as needed. In addition, the Church Building Committee and the Board of Elders makes sure that relevant factors have been carefully considered before presenting it to the congregation for approval as needed. The Church Building Committee and the Board of Elders will investigate and determined if the new building and its location are 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.

Step two: Writing the Church Building Fund Project Policy and Budgeting – 2015

Reverend Chaiya Hadtasunern took the lead in writing the church building proposal and presented it to the Church Building Committee, Board of Elders and Advisors for review. Once the review is completed, the church building proposal is then presented to the congregation for approval before sending it to the supporters. The proposal can be changed any time as needed to meet our purpose.

In order to reflect the stewardship and ministry intent of the contribution to Hmong Mennonite Church Building Project, financial estimates are categorized in two ways:¹

- a) The Building will cost approximately \$600,000 or less (see more detail on point 3 below) due to the limitation of fundraisers, faith promise from the church members and other donors.
- b) The Hmong Mennonite Church goal is to reach our 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 building fund will be needed by 2019 and 2020 in order to reach our goal.
- c) Five years Budget plan 2015-2020 is \$178,000.

HMC Building Project Budgeting

Expenses	Income
Notice: 25% down payment Building cost = \$600,000	
1. Down payment+ Closing Costs \$150,000	1. Faith Promise (HMC Members):
	b. Couple family (\$4,000x20) 80,000
	c. Single person (\$2000x17) 34,000
2. Monthly payment (<i>5 months after purchasing the building</i>) 20,000	2. HMC Fundraisers 10,000
3. Maintenance 8,000	3. Frontier Airline 10,000
	4. Organization/companies 10,000
	5. Mennonite Mission Network 5,000

¹This budget plan can be changed any time if the building project is updated according to the decision making by the Church Building Committee.

		6. Mennonite Local Churches	5,000
		7. Mennonite Men and Women	2,000
		8. MSMC	2,000
		9. Western District Conference	2,000
		10. Hmong Mennonite Churches	1,000
		11. Mennonite District Conference	1,000
		12. Atlantic Coast Conference	1,000
		13. Virginia Mennonite Conference	1,000
		14. Alleheny Mennonite Conference	1,000
		15. Central District Conference	1,000
		16. Central Plains Mennonite Conference	1,000
		17. Eastern District Conference	1,000
		18. Illinois Mennonite Conference	1,000
		19. Mennonite Northern Conference	1,000
		20. Indiana-Michigan MC	1,000
		21. Lancaster MC	1,000
		22. New York MC	1,000
		23. Ohio MC	1,000
		24. Pacific Northwest MC	1,000
		25. Pacific Southwest MC	1,000
		26. Everence	1,000
		27. Individual person	1,000
		Total	\$178,000
Total	\$178,000		

6. Permanent Fund Trustees or Building Committee

The Permanent Fund of Hmong Mennonite Church (HMC) shall be managed by three trustees or Church Building Committee, elected by the congregation. In addition, the HMC Board of Elders and Pastor must work together with the Church Building Committee by moving forward until the project is completed. 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.

7. Restricted Funds:

The Church Building Fund cannot be spent on unintended purposes unless prior written agreement has been established by the HMC. 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 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.

8. Budget Reports Includes:

Annual, quarterly or monthly by the Building project committee.

Step three: Anticipate Cost Analysis and Buying the Building

Step three will be done one or two years before purchasing the building. It is extremely important; therefore, the Hmong Mennonite Church needs to take full financial accountability for the church building projects before and after the purchase the building. The Church Building Committee will need to take their duties and responsibilities seriously with integrity and wisely by doing more research and seeking counsel from Area Conference or those who have had experienced on the following issues to avoid common problems.

Step Four: Project Evaluation

The Church Building Committee meetings are held every month 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.

Thai Moua Project	2015-2018	Pao Thao HMC Moderator	Rev. Chaiya Yang Hadasunern Pastor
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Maytia Moua 2019
Project Chair