Trinity Community Commons Nate Paulk, Executive Director

Trinity Community Commons (TCC) "*leverages Sacred Space to affirm and activate the worth and potential of all people*" by utilizing a historic UMC facility in unique ways to create positive change at the individual and community level. TCC participates in this change by offering meaningful pathways for neighbors to find connection and support within their larger community while also providing support to assist individuals with personal development goals.

TCC was created by the staff, laity, and clergy of the legacy Tennessee Conference in 2013. The organization was built upon an earlier effort by East Nashville clergy and laity who were passionate about spreading the love of Christ as well as helping discover and meet the needs of local neighbors. Along with leadership of the Nashville District, they saw potential in what role under-utilized Sacred Space could play in creating a hub for local communities while building relationships with underserved individuals through radical hospitality.

In 2022, TCC collaborated with the Trustees of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Annual Conference to transfer the historic facility to TCC. This transfer has allowed TCC to fully pursue renovation of the facility which had much deferred maintenance and was also profoundly damaged by fire in February of 2021. A new roof has been installed and volunteers have made cosmetic updates to the fellowship hall and kitchen. We are hopeful that contractors will begin the first phase of renovation work by late Summer or early Fall.

During the past conference year, TCC has leveraged its space and community connections to employ three main paths of access for neighbors and volunteers: Weekly community meals, a seasonal farmers' market, and local clothing swaps.

TCC has strong connections with numerous local congregations, community businesses and other non-profit partners that also provide needed services to those in the community who continue to struggle to meet the basic needs for themselves and their families. These organizations will become even more effective partners as we expand the amount of functional space in the facility.

In mid-May of 2023, Nate Paulk will conclude his role as Executive Director. The Board of Directors has selected Zach Lykins to be the next Executive Director. Paulk will continue serving in a Founder role during the transition. Lykins lives in the community and has been an active volunteer, leading the weekly Community Meal Program for two years.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, ways to invest and ways to partner with TCC, please visit <u>www.trinitycommunitycommons.org</u>.

Current TCC Board of Directors Ashonti Davis - Chair/President Meredith DiMenna - Treasurer Howard Hale - Vice President Lynn Taylor - Secretary Nate Paulk - Ex-officio/Executive Director