

Mystic Valley Purchases Maplewood Baptist Church

The Mystic Valley Regional Charter School (MVRCS) has purchased the Maplewood Baptist Church located at 729 Salem Street, Malden. The purchase price was \$800,000.

Mystic Valley Chairman of the Board Neil Kinnon said of the purchase “I am happy to have been a conduit between the Maplewood Baptist Church and Mystic Valley Regional Charter School in coming to an agreement which I believe is a win-win proposition. This agreement will allow Maplewood Baptist, an important institution in the neighborhood, to continue its vital mission and at the same time allow Mystic Valley to solidify its long term use of the building in partnership with the church as it has done for many years now.”

Executive Director, Martin Trice considers this a rare opportunity. “Large facilities like Maplewood Baptist are few in the Maplewood Square area. To find one that is so close in proximity to our elementary school made the opportunity too good to let pass by. Although the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has yet to grant our enrollment cap increase, we knew that additional space for our Lower School students was needed regardless. When we are eventually granted an increase, we will be assured of having the capacity to accommodate our growth.”

Maplewood Baptist Church Pastor Gary McClenthen said of the sale: “We believe that this week brings us to the culmination of many years of intense prayer and unified reflection. For some time, we have been considering numerous ways to strengthen and streamline our work as a church. One such idea, among many considered, was to approach the leadership of the Mystic Valley Charter School and ask if our building and property would be of value to them.

Our desire all along, even before considering the sale of our building, has been to have a greater presence in the community; to be less building-based and more integrated in the life of the Maplewood neighborhood and the city of Malden.

I have always believed that a city, even as it becomes more “urban” by the day, as Malden seems to be doing, can continue to be an attractive place for folks from all walks of life to call home. Contributing to the stability of any safe and forward moving city are good schools and good churches (and other faith-based communities and ministries).

The Mystic Valley Charter School has been good for our city and has been a good neighbor to our church. The Maplewood Baptist Church has been a positive influence in Maplewood Square for more than 140 years. It is reassuring to know that this transaction today allows a strong and positive academic institution to move forward, and at the same time allows a vibrant and impacting faith community to continue to be an influence for “good” in the city we all love.

Our desire is to remain in the Maplewood Square neighborhood and to exist *for* the Maplewood Square neighborhood. We want nothing but the best for the future of the MVCS in their mission to provide the very best education to the children of Malden and the surrounding communities. I believe that for both institutions today is a good day!”