



Waukesha F. & A. M. Lodge #37

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 17, 2005

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Waukesha Lodge #37 New Home for E & R United Church of Christ

(Waukesha, WI) – Following a devastating fire on December 4, 2005 that destroyed a 110 year-old church, the members of the Evangelical and Reformed (E&R) United Church of Christ in Waukesha have taken up residence at the Waukesha Masonic Lodge to hold its Sunday morning worship service. It should be noted that immediately following the fire the church did hold its Sunday morning service at the First Congregational United Church of Christ, located just a few blocks away. However, due to time conflicts and parking issues, the church sought a better long-term solution while it rebuilds.

According to the church's pastor, Rev. Jim Gorman, "The church selected the Waukesha Masonic Lodge as its new foster home over a number of other facilities offering space largely because it allowed the church to hold both its worship services and Sunday school in the same building."

Gary Ebert, Worshipful Master of the Waukesha Lodge, said members of the Lodge were unanimous in the decision to offer the building to the church. "We could not see a better way to demonstrate to the community what the true spirit of Freemasonry is all about." Ebert also noted, "The building is being made available to the church at cost, even though the rebuilding process could take up to two years."

The E&R United Church of Christ conducted its first worship service at the Waukesha Lodge on Sunday February 12th. Nearly 200 members filled the Lodge room for Sunday service. At the same time, some 50 children took part in Sunday school in the downstairs dining room. Following the service, members of the Waukesha Lodge put on a free breakfast for the church as a way of saying "welcome." The breakfast included pancakes, scrambled eggs and sausage. The congregation has expressed, in countless ways, its sincere gratitude for the way the Lodge has opened its doors to the church, in its time of need.

Ebert best summed up the day's events by saying, "This is indeed a great moment for the Waukesha Lodge. It makes us all proud to Masons."

Built in 1905 and located at 317 South St. in downtown Waukesha, the Waukesha Masonic Lodge has been designated a local landmark by the Waukesha Landmarks Commission, because of the building's architectural and historical significance. Tours are available by request.

The mission of Freemasonry in Wisconsin is to teach and demonstrate a fraternal way of life that promotes brotherhood and self improvement through education, moral standards, charity, and community involvement. Freemasons, in addition to raising money for various charities, also provide scholarships to local high school students and support many other causes. Wisconsin Masonic Charities support a wide range of causes and provide donors with numerous opportunities for personal involvement, serving thousands of individuals each year through programs that support Masonic relief, gifts of education, community health and safety, and youth activities. The Three Pillars retirement home, located in Dousman, was formerly known as The Masonic Home and is also supported by the Masonic Order.

If you'd like more information about this lodge or Freemasonry, please contact Worshipful Master Gary Ebert at 262.547.0985.

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