Dear Community Member,

Kesher Israel is beginning a construction project for the first time in nearly 65 years. We have purchased another building at 3200 N. 3rd Street, in the heart of many of our members’ back yard.

Many committees have been hard at work creating a new home that will assure that Orthodox Judaism continues to thrive in Harrisburg. I am happy to share that we have a great plan.

The City of Harrisburg has issued a Construction Permit for us to begin our project. Pyramid Construction will oversee all the necessary elements to complete the project. To get to this point, many hours have been spent thinking through the design to best accommodate our growing congregation. We have tried to imagine using the building differently from today’s congregation, enabling us to continue to grow in the future.

We will be adding an addition to include a new sanctuary and community room with flexible space. A foldable wall will separate the two spaces between the community room and sanctuary depending on the event. The ground floor is designed to accommodate most of our daily needs.

We will have a new Heating and Air-conditioning system with proper air exchanges and virus protection built into the new duct work. We will have all new electric service to provide for all the new systems in this building. All windows and doors will be replaced, Security is our #1 priority, and the entire building will have a new roof.

The plumbing is being revamped to allow for new bathrooms. Wi-Fi enabled devices as well as “Smart Lighting” are all part of the plan. Since we are doing a full construction project, the energy savings will be significant.

As many of you are hearing in the news, the supply chain issues are real in the construction world. Much of the timeframe is dependent on materials being delivered to our site. In addition, the new electric service needed may be held up due to the unpredictable schedule of PP&L.

Everyone is asking when this project will begin? I wish I knew the answer. We will begin just as soon as possible. Look for that announcement! Once initiated, construction should take 4 months.

Attached, are links to concept pictures of the “New Kesher Israel Congregation.” If you would like to know more about the particulars of such an ambitious project, please feel free to email me at any time.

May the Light Grow!

Best,
Barry Gordon and Oleasa Salkin
Co-Chairs, Construction Committee
Kesher Israel Congregation