



—News Photo by Karl A. Payne

Lester Murrell (left) presents a check to Lucien Palmer

Proceeds given to Rochester college

West Side Central sold

By NANCY MANSER
News Religion Writer

To Mrs. N. M. Murray, who joined the church in 1917 and is its oldest member, it seemed there always would be a West Side Central Church of Christ.

But at a final meeting yesterday, the Detroit congregation decided to sell its building at Puritan and Ferguson and in an unusual move, give the money to Michigan Christian College in Rochester for a chapel.

Accepting the gift at the meeting was Lucien Palmer, chancellor of the college at 800 Avon. Michigan Christian's 219 students now meet in a gymnasium for services.

The school, operated by members of the Church of Christ, will name its chapel after West Side Central, which was founded in 1915 in the Warren-Forest area in Detroit.

Commenting on the disbanding of West Side Central, David Graf, part-time minister, said:

"This is what's happening to a lot of churches in Detroit.

We have old members who've gone with the church, moving several times before they came here in 1948.

"Most of our membership is made up of elderly people who live out in the suburbs."

At one time 600 people were on West Central's membership rolls but that dwindled to 40. This small group decided to sell their property to the Greater Community Baptist Church with members joining Church of Christ congregations in their own areas.

The person instrumental in suggesting that the \$125,000 from the sale be given to the school was Gerald Montgomery, minister of Southfield Church of Christ.

Mr. Montgomery, who headed West Central from

1954 to 1960, will "work with the people of the West Side Central" in the design of the chapel.

"And if they want to meet once in a while, they're welcome to come out to the college and use the facilities," said Mr. Montgomery.

Michigan Christian College, situated on 90 acres, is a liberal arts junior college with Bible courses and daily chapel services. The school has a multipurpose administration building, a gymnasium, two men's dorms and a women's dorm.

Although West Side Central's name will live on, it is a "heart-breaking experience" for long-time members like Mrs. Murray to see a once vital congregation disband.

Cass Tech sets student art sale

The Cass Tech art department will sponsor a student art sale from 1 to 5 p.m. Nov. 23, on the sixth floor of the high school, 2421 Second at Henry.

Proceeds will be used for scholarships, books, materials, magazines and other equipment needed for art classes.

The public is invited.

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