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For Release on Receipt

**Church Development Partners  
acquires development company**

ORANGE, CALIF. — Church Development Partners (CDP) has acquired its own land development company, a move that enables expanded real estate services to congregations and ministries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Arrangements were completed in July for Church Development Associates to become a wholly owned subsidiary of CDP.

“Church Development Associates is a traditional land development company,” said CDP President Ron Van Blarcom. “Immediately, we are assigning eight projects across the United States involving properties owned by CDP, congregations and districts. Church Development Associates will handle entitlements with local government entities and determine the portions to be used by the churches, with the remaining property sold for other compatible purposes.”

Van Blarcom said Church Development Associates will function like any commercial land developer: negotiating necessary entitlements and permits, securing utility services and contracting site preparation. “The difference is that the net proceeds of a project will be put back into planting the future congregation as well as going to a church planting fund for the church at large,” he added.

Having a separate land developer will free CDP staff to focus on consulting and providing answers to congregations, schools and other ministries with general real estate questions. CDP will continue its work with district and national mission staff in identifying and implementing best real estate practices for planting new congregations and utilizing existing properties. Van Blarcom said CDP has been successful in connecting donors with new church projects and will pursue additional efforts in that area as well.

James Beam, a former real estate developer and founder of Beam and Associates, which provided real estate services to institutions and nonprofit organizations, will serve as chairman of the board of Church Development Associates. Robert Brooks, creative director for concept architecture with Walt Disney Imagineering, will serve as president. Jeffrey Weber, vice president for land acquisition and forward planning with Empire Homes, will serve as secretary and chief financial officer.

The three men, all residents of Orange, will serve as staff with additional services provided by CDP staff.

“As founding president of Church Development Partners nearly eight years ago, it has been exciting to see how God has blessed this ministry of providing space and place to new and expanding congregations,” Beam said. “The addition of Church Development Associates will allow us to increase our assistance to the congregations and ministries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.”

Brooks said he will draw from many years of developing signature projects for Knott’s Berry Farm and Walt Disney Imagineering, plus leading the effort to entitle and develop a church and school for his home congregation. “The experience,” he added, “has equipped me with a diverse skill set required to accomplish the important work of Church Development Associates.”

Weber will work with entitling land to allow continued expansion of churches and schools. “My experience allows me to understand and overcome the unique challenges associated with each property,” said Weber, who has 20-plus years experience in acquiring and entitling properties, developing master planned communities and constructing single and multi-family residences.

Church Development Associates is a for-profit corporation. As a wholly owned subsidiary of CDP, it will direct surplus funds toward ministry and mission projects of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The LCMS is a 2.6-million member church body with 6,200 congregations and 2.5 million members. CDP is a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS.

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