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City County Planning Office  
Lawrence, Kansas**APPLICATION FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION IN  
THE LAWRENCE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES****1. Applicant Information**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Tom Harper</b>
<b>Street Address:</b>	<b>2152 Owens Lane</b>
<b>City, State, Zip Code:</b>	<b>Lawrence, Kansas 66046</b>
<b>Home Phone:</b>	<b>785-749-2699</b>
<b>Work Phone:</b>	<b>785-841-4500</b>
<b>Email Address:</b>	<b>Tom@Tom-Harper.com</b>

**2. Owner Information**

<b>Name:</b>	ECM Board, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ, the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) and the Church of Brethren denominations along with First Presbyterian, West Side Presbyterian, Plymouth Congregational, Lone Star Church of Brethren congregations of Lawrence and St. Pauls United Church of Christ in Eudora, KS.
<b>Street Address:</b>	<b>1204 Oread Avenue</b>
<b>City, State, Zip Code:</b>	<b>Lawrence, Kansas 66044</b>
<b>Home Phone:</b>	
<b>Work Phone:</b>	<b>785-843-4933</b>
<b>Email Address:</b>	<b>ecmku@ku.edu</b>

**3. Property Nomination Information**

<b>Historic Property Name:</b>	<b>Ecumenical Christian Ministries Building</b>
<b>Property Address:</b>	<b>1204 Oread Avenue</b>
<b>City, State, Zip Code:</b>	<b>Lawrence, Kansas 66044</b>
<b>Legal Description:</b>	<b>OREAD ADD BLK 3 LT 1 &amp; N 1/2 LT 2 (U04566 &amp; 67 COMBINED 1988)</b>

Is this an owner initiated nomination?: ☒ Yes ☐ NoIf not, has the owner been notified by the applicant of this nomination?: ☐ Yes ☐ No

If sponsored by an organization:

Organization Name:

Organization Address:

Organization City, State, Zip Code:

This property is being nominated for its:

Historic Significance: ☒

Architectural Significance: ☒

Association with an Important Local, State or National individual or event: ☐

#### 4. Historic Background Information

<b>Date Built:</b> 1959-1960	<b>Estimated Documented</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Source: Original Architect Plans &amp; other documents</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
<b>Date of Building Alterations or Additions:</b> There have been no significant alterations to building	<b>Estimated Documented</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Source:</b>	<b>Comments:</b>

**Description of Building Additions or Alterations:** n/a

<b>Original Owner: United Presbyterian Center</b>	<b>Source: 1960 Jayhawker</b>
<b>Original Builder or Architect:</b> Kiene & Bradley Architects Topeka, Kansas + B.A. Green Construction	<b>Source: Original Architect Plans</b>
<b>Original Use: Campus Ministries Building</b>	<b>Source: Interviewing Pastors</b>

#### 5. Architectural Significance

The ECM is an excellent example of modern style architecture. Louis Sullivan, mentor to Frank Lloyd Wright, once noted that, in architecture, form should follow function; a building should be designed to suit its purpose (Wendy, 2004). The ECM was constructed with this tenant in mind. The functional aspects of the building were paramount due to the growing needs of the Patton's campus ministry. The organic forms and lines of the building are characteristic of modern style architecture. The unique exterior and interior features stem from the architectural preferences of the architects, Keine and Bradley during a period of history when modernism was at its height.

Duncan Stroik, an architect and an Assoc. Professor of Architecture at the University of Notre Dame explains how modern architecture infused church building design, "After World War II, the Modernist movement was embraced as an expression of the technological triumph of the war. Many pastors followed the lead of government and big business by building abstract, asymmetrical and futuristic churches in modern materials. Modern church architecture is a child of the "masters" of Modernism: Le Corbusier, Walter Gropius, Alvar Aalto, Mies van der Rohe, Frank Lloyd Wright and others. (Modernist Church Architecture Catholic Dossier May-June 1997)

In the January 1946 issue of Art and Architecture Jan Reiner points out several features that characterize contemporary architecture or what we now call "modern style", including: frame construction of wood, steel, or concrete; flexible floor plan, orientation toward sun, garden, city, neighborhood or view; functional design, replacing the over decorated façades made up of historical styles; more windows with glass walls where desirable and practical; use of new mechanical equipment

and materials, interiors with simple and comfortable furniture, simple color schemes, sliding walls and accent on low cost. (Art and Architecture Jan. 1946)

The ECM embodies many of Reiner's characteristics of modern style architecture. The ECM was planned and created with the innovative use of post World War II materials such as concrete, steel, brick and glass. Elements that make the ECM modern in style include: poured concrete inserts that exhibit a curved line pattern with random circles on much of the exterior; extensive use of glass in the chapel on the north and south sides that form walls oriented toward southern exposure and northern views of the Wakarusa Valley; the open and flexible use of space throughout the building; light fixtures made of spun aluminum that resemble flying saucers; and acoustic ceiling tiles imprinted with random circular shapes. The staircase and fireplace are the centerpieces of the building while serving the practical needs of the people who use the space. The floating concrete staircase and fireplace can be viewed as works of art. The curved lines of the barrel roof on the chapel and tower convey a modern flair. The placement of skylights over the altar helps provide a sense of well being and inspiration. The original, elegant, durable, and in its day, affordable furniture by Charles Eames also compliments the modern style of the building.

## **6. Historic Significance**

The Ecumenical Christian Ministries (ECM) building is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of social history and Criterion C in the area of architecture. The period of significance begins with the building's construction in 1959 and extends to 1975 when the Vietnam War ended and significant gains had been made in civil rights. The location of the ECM was significant during this period because of its proximity to the University of Kansas and the Oread Neighborhood to the east, where many young people who were concerned about such issues lived. The ECM was in between Oread Neighborhood and KU. It was "part of KU but not of KU", which gave people who met there autonomy to plan and further their agendas. In this way and many others, the ECM has been a logical place for groups of people to meet, organize and socialize together.

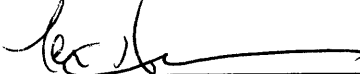
From its beginnings, ECM has been intricately interwoven with the history of Lawrence. Pastors and those involved with the Center have consistently maintained a spirit of service towards students and the community, and values of peace and justice have been a common thread over the years in terms of the issues students have dealt with. The ECM's doors are always open and welcoming to those who might not have a place to meet. In this respect it serves an important function within our community. Socially, religiously, and architecturally the building has achieved significance within the last fifty years.

**Nomination for the National Register of Historic Places is pending and was given to Sarah Martin with the Kansas State Historic Society on November 10, 2008. Said nomination is attached with this nomination.**

**Thank-you for your consideration in nominating the ECM building to the Lawrence Register of Historic Places.**

## **7. Authorization and Certification**

**I, the undersigned do hereby have the legal authority to submit this nomination and I certify that the information provided on this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

**Signature:**  **Date:** 12/5/08



