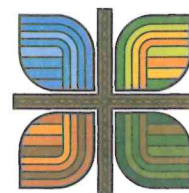




# DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

## OFFICE OF THE BISHOP



July 21, 2025

**via email & U.S. mail**

Reverend Clement Owusu  
St. Michael Parish  
1912 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Harlan, Iowa 51537

Dear Father Clement:

Thank you for your letter and accompanying documents related to the proposed expansion of the St. Michael Parish campus. It is clear that you and your parish leadership are approaching this significant initiative by diligently exploring the extant level of need and potential support among your parishioners. I applaud your leadership in that process.

Permission is granted for you to move forward with the commissioning of detailed architectural drawings and initial planning for a capital campaign to support the project. The new fellowship hall and additional meeting rooms will significantly expand the capacity to host large and small gatherings. I am pleased that attention is being given to expanding the narthex of the church and including an Adoration Chapel so vital to the spiritual life of the Parish. Although the plan for new parish office space must be discerned and is contingent on the ability to raise additional funds, it would seem wise to include this addition as part of such a significant project. Your parish office space has always been quite limited and could be addressed now rather than delayed until some undetermined future date.

Your letter is indicative of the outstanding leadership you and other lay members provide for St. Michael Parish which will be crucial as this project evolves. May you together continue to accompany one another in this representative endeavor as pilgrims of hope!

Faithfully in Christ,

Most Rev. William M. Joensen, Ph.D.  
Bishop of Des Moines

cc: Norm Bormann  
Jason Kurth  
Bob Larson