

## Amelia Baptist Church

Nassau County Development Review Committee - Pre-application Executive Summary –

Amelia Baptist Church (ABC) owns 10+ acres (00-00-30-0760-0031-0000 and 00-00-30-0760-0029-0000) in Nassau County. ABC is proposing to rezone its property to Planned Unit Development (PUD). The rezoning will allow the expansion of our current church and ministries as well as residential, waterfront development.

ABC is a Bible believing, family equipping and missions-oriented church with significant outreach and resident engagement. ABC has been blessed to grow its membership and community programs over the past several years. In addition to the traditional worship services, the church sponsors a variety of programs available to the general public. As a result, the church is seeking to redevelop its facilities

Listed below are just a few of the many publicly accessible community-wide programs sponsored by ABC. A larger list is attached.

- Non-denominational Community Bible Study (multiple programs)
- Allegiance community youth choir
- Large community choir presenting Good Friday Easter cantata and Evening in December programs
- Lead church supporting Set Free by the Sea ministry for those with addictions
- “Counter Culture” program open to all high school students
- Vacation Bible Experience – weeklong evening program for community children and parents
- Occasional use of ABC facilities by National Day of Prayer
- Our Pastor is a Chaplain for the Nassau County Sheriffs Office

The redevelopment of the church offers the opportunity for the church to continue to give back and serve the County residents as well as create a mixed-use project. To that end additional land was acquired in 2022. The land was owned by two ABC founding members, Larry and Maria Sellers, who helped to establish Amelia Baptist Church several decades ago. After the death of both parents, the four sons expressed their parents’ wish to offer our church the first right to purchase the land and family home.

Responding to this offer and with a short deadline to purchase, the congregation voted to accept the Sellers’ family offer to purchase the property. We immediately began a capital campaign.

ABC entered into negotiations to sell a portion of its property to a third party. This sale would allow redevelopment of the church facilities and provide a compatible residential waterfront community.

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This is a list of some of our publicly accessible community outreach occurring on our church campus-

- Children and families attend Sign Language Classes that meet weekly during the school year.
- Three Children's Choirs with neighborhood children ages babies to 6<sup>th</sup> grade rehearse and sing and create crafts to take into the community, including assisted living facilities.
- Allegiance Youth Choir with teens from various area churches rehearse and sing at COA, ARC, area nursing homes, assisted living facilities, shrimp festival and veterans' day parades, and mission projects throughout the country.
- Allegiance sponsors an event called "Amelia's Got Talent" showcasing singing and acting talent of youth and their culinary skills in preparing delicious auction items as a fund raiser.
- The Amelia Community Choir rehearses at ABC and is multidenominational and multigenerational, presenting concerts to a full auditorium on Easter weekend and the first Weekend in December. Many county churches and music organizations are represented.
- An Evening in December is an event with volunteers from different churches that features a weekend of outdoor drama, Bethlehem Village, and Community Choir and orchestra concerts.
- Amelia Worship Choir and orchestra is multigenerational and open to the community.
- Community Bible Study is open to the public at large.
- Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings community members attend another Bible Study.
- Friday Morning is a time of prayer and Bible Study open to men from the community.
- Annual Ladies' Dinner event.
- Participants meet at ABC to prepare for International and North America mission projects.
- Amelia Baptist has hosted music concerts by the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival.
- Senior Adult events are presently being planned and organized by the church to start this fall.
- Multiple wedding and baby showers and weddings (both indoor and outdoor) are hosted in our church yearly.
- Memorial services are often held in the sanctuary of our church followed by family dinners in our Education Building or Fellowship Hall.
- There are other events and meetings open to the community at Amelia Baptist Church weekly on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays, occasionally on Saturdays as well.