



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bath Township Fire Department Responds to Church Fire

February 25, 2017

Bath Township Fire Department responded to a report of a fire at the Christian Convention Center Church located at 695 S. Leonard Ave., Lima, Ohio, in Bath Township at 7:29 P.M.

Upon arrival units observed flames coming from the roof at the peak of the structure. Several neighbors informed arriving firefighters that a person lived in the church and that his car was parked in the lot. This information was repeated by multiple bystanders at the scene.

Firefighters spent the first ten to twelve minutes searching the structure with no success. Due to instability of the structure, firefighters were pulled from their interior search and began exterior extinguishment with elevated master streams. The Lima Fire Department assisted at the scene with manpower and apparatus.

Allen County Sheriff's Deputies were able to confirm that the information regarding the occupant was inaccurate. The church was not occupied and no one lives in the building.

The church rents the building from Dan Campbell of Lima, according to pastor, Steven Walsh.

Fire Chief Joseph Kitchen estimates the damage to be \$200,000 to the structure and \$100,000 to the contents.

No fire department personnel were injured.

The cause of the fire was determined to be accidental and remains under investigation. Firefighters were on the scene for about three hours.

Contact person: Joseph Kitchen, Fire Chief: 419-221-0550