

Capital Campaign Feasibility Study Summary First Congregational Church of Stockbridge

Although our founding dates back to 1734, and names like Jonathan Edwards and Reinhold Niebuhr grace the pages of our history, we take seriously the church's call to make the Christian faith our own in this generation. Here in our historic New England sanctuary, we gather to meet our still-speaking God in new and fresh ways. We are a people inhabiting a particular place in a particular moment. We strive to follow the way of Christ, deepening our connection to God, one another, and the world. We honor our responsibility to both those who currently call this church home - and to those who will in coming years and generations.

Stewarding our past

We have been blessed by those who came before with buildings and grounds that are beautiful, functional, safe, and welcoming. They are in need of our attention and care. Major initiatives in this area include the need to:

- Reset the front sanctuary steps to protect the foundation and meet code. (\$30,000)
- Repair and update the organ to serve the worship and musical needs of the church. (\$80,000)
- Restore the beauty of the sanctuary by painting the steeple and the front face. (\$57,000)
- Replace the aging church furnaces with more effective and energy-efficient units.
- Repair the Manse, including structure, new shingles, new roof, energy-efficient windows, and painting.
- Repair the church buildings, including structure and painting.

Costs: \$400,000+

Shepherding our present

Our church is alive and thriving. Our ministries and programs require facilities that are accessible, welcoming, safe, and properly equipped. Major initiatives in this area include the need to:

- Reduce barriers for people to enter the buildings and participate in the life of the church. This will include creating a beautiful and barrier-free entrance ramp at the JE Room, upgrades to the sanctuary to boost accessibility and sound, and other initiatives that extend welcome to all. (\$190,000)
- Attend to the central symbols of our worship by restoring the communion table and pulpit, and commissioning a new baptismal font that is functional, beautiful, and complimentary.
- Install energy-efficient climate control for JE Room, kitchen, office/classroom wing, and Manse. (\$25,000)
- Upgrade and enhance our classrooms to facilitate learning for all ages, to support meetings, and welcome outside users. We seek to create flexible spaces, including the use of soundproof dividers, increased technology, and better furniture.
- Enhance audio / visual equipment.
- Renovate our 'living room', the JE Room, including paint, lighting, sound, window treatments, and flooring to equip it for our use and the use of the community.
- Upgrade lighting and outlets throughout the church.
- Care for the many trees that grace our property for safety and preservation.

Costs: \$350,000+

Strengthening our future

Even as we meet the needs and possibilities of the moment, we strive to anticipate and meet the opportunities of tomorrow. From our lived experience in recent years, and years long past, we have identified the following objectives that will help us not just survive but thrive, not just be but become.

- Our outdoor space is beautiful and critical to our welcome. We want to leverage that space - equipping it both for formal gatherings like worship, concerts, or programs - and for informal gatherings for people who wish to sit, share a meal, or relax.
- Respond to our call to care for the environment, by installing solar panels or other sustainable sources of power.
- Responding to our growing programs, especially in the area of education, partially fund a position for Associate Pastor/CE Assistant for the short term, to allow us time to grow and live into budgeted funding for this position.
- Welcome the community more fully to see this church as their home, including initiatives such as EV charging, spaces that welcome children, and more.
- Enhancements to our music program and capabilities including sound equipment, risers for singing groups, equipment for our bell choirs, and more.
- Make the church kitchen a place that is updated, safe, and equipped for our programs and to welcome the community in.
- Renovations for the Manse that make it efficient, functional, and beautiful for those who serve our church as Pastor. Most pressing needs include the kitchen, adding a bath, wallpaper removal and painting, and other upgrades.
- Signage both outside and inside the church that conveys our life/values, welcomes people in, and facilitates their easy access to the property.
- Build our endowment to support the future life of the church.

Costs: \$250,000+

Total projected Capital Campaign costs: \$1million+

Many of these projects are eligible for grant funding for historic preservation, accessibility, energy conservation, music, and other areas, and we will actively pursue all possible grant options.

Our faith calls us to accept both the costs and joys of discipleship. We have so many reasons to be joyful – our shared love, our thriving and growing church family, our dynamic worship, our ministries of service, learning, care, and connection, and, of course, this beautiful place to call home. This campaign calls upon each of us to step up to the costs needed to sustain our facilities, to care for our neighbors, to become the church God calls us to be, and to leave this place better for those who follow. We are thankful for your prayerful engagement with us in this important and sacred endeavor.

Capital Campaign Steering Committee

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