

Update on masonry repairs supported by the Indiana Landmarks' Sacred Places Indiana Fund matching grant

February 2025

Key points:

- As announced in February 2024, North United Methodist Church is one of seven churches to be awarded matching grants from the Sacred Places Indiana Fund. The grants are part of a new Indiana Landmarks program, funded by Lilly Endowment, and used for capital improvements at historic places of worship.
- For more on the announcement, go to the “North in the News” section of our website (<https://northchurchindy.com/north-in-the-news/>).
- Indiana Landmarks has approved a matching grant of up to \$250,000 – meaning they will cover half the cost of the project selected.
- To help North Church determine priorities, Indiana Landmarks also provided a \$25,000 planning grant, which fully funded a detailed Building Needs Assessment and provided expert advice to help Trustees set priorities.
- Trustees used the assessment to identify the masonry repairs that are their top priority (a \$500,000 project).
- The North Church Board of Directors has approved the scope of this project; the engineering and project management services have been secured; and initial bids are under review.
- We expect repairs to be completed by early Fall 2025, which is in line with the grant requirements.
- You can help us secure our match by donating to the Sacred Places Challenge by September 1, 2025.

Message from a North family:

Friends, we joined North over 15 years ago, impressed by its many ministries, especially those that support our neighborhood and larger community. We made the right decision then and believe it to have been so even more now.

While we support North through our gifts to the annual Stewardship campaign and have included the church in our estate plans, we also recognize there are needs that cannot wait and opportunities that should not be ignored. Our Sanctuary is nearly a century old while our Education Wing is approaching 75. They serve us well, but they need regular attention to continue to do so. Through a matching grant made available through Indiana Landmark's Sacred Places historic preservation initiative, North can address the decidedly boring yet absolutely essential work of performing masonry repairs that will halt water infiltration damaging both structures. The work cannot wait, and the opportunity made available through the matching grant should not be ignored.

For this reason, we have decided to make a gift of \$25,000 now in support of the initiative and hope others will join us by making a significant gift as well (and as their circumstances permit).

Let's not miss this opportunity. North needs us.

Frequently asked questions:

What are North Church's financial obligations for this grant?

The Sacred Places Indiana Fund Phase 1 is a one-to-one (1:1) matching grant, which means that Indiana Landmarks covers half the cost (up to \$250,000), and North Church covers the other half. A portion of North Church's share (\$97,500) has been committed from early donations and qualifying Trustee restricted-fund distributions. We need to secure the remainder of our match (\$152,500) by September 1, 2025.

Your legacy gift to the Sacred Places Challenge will help us meet our match. Please fill out a pledge card or reach out to Pastor Darren or Grafton Day (gaffstrategicfundraising@gmail.com) to discuss how you can support this effort.

Who oversees the repairs? Who is responsible for fundraising?

Our Trustees Committee, in partnership with our building manager Jeff Linnan, are responsible for identifying needs and project priorities; working with our engineering firm to assess technical requirements and bids; and ensuring the project meets budget and quality expectations. Andy Hein will be the lead Trustee on the Sacred Places project.

A task force, chaired by Grafton Day, is leading the fundraising strategy and manages the Indiana Landmarks relationship and its Sacred Places Indiana Fund grant requirements. The task force also supports outreach and communications related to this project.

How do I donate stock?

Please contact our business administrator, Nancy Ricketts, for instructions. Please specify that your gift of stock is to go to the Sacred Places Challenge. You may call Nancy at 317.924.2612 or send an e-mail message to nricketts@northchurchindy.com.

Can I complete my pledge over several years?

Our immediate focus is on securing matching funds for the project underway and meet the grant requirements. With construction on this project scheduled to conclude by early Fall, we ask that gifts for that project be received by September 1, 2025.

The Trustees will work with the Board on the timing and scope of subsequent phases of the building improvement plan. If you are interested in a larger opportunity to support capital improvements over multiple years, please reach out to Pastor Darren or Grafton Day (gaffstrategicfundraising@gmail.com).

Will this project affect what's available for ministries and staff? Can our 2025 Stewardship campaign or annual budgets be reallocated to cover North Church's matching grant?

No, our annual Stewardship campaign supports the operations of the church (i.e., staff, utilities, insurance, ministry teams, ongoing programming, and upkeep). Capital improvements of this size are beyond the scope of our Stewardship pledges and tithes.

Gifts to the Sacred Places Challenge will cover building improvements. Please fill out the pledge card you receive today or reach out to Pastor Darren or Grafton Day (gaffstrategicfundraising@gmail.com) to discuss how you can support this effort.