



## Update #2: Masonry repairs supported by the Indiana Landmarks matching grant

Status as of April 20, 2025

### Key points:

- North United Methodist Church has been awarded two grants from the Indiana Landmarks Sacred Places Indiana Fund: A planning grant and a capital improvement matching grant.
- The grants are an Indiana Landmarks program funded by Lilly Endowment to support capital improvements at historic places of worship. See the news release at <https://northchurchindy.com/north-in-the-news/>
- The \$25,000 planning grant fully funded a detailed Building Needs Assessment and provided expert advice to help North Church Trustees set long-term priorities and identify their top priority: exterior masonry repairs to the south and east of the sanctuary (a \$500,000 project).
- The North Church Board of Directors has approved the scope of this project; bids and engineering project management services have been secured; and Indiana Landmarks has approved our plan. Work will begin shortly and repairs to be completed in Fall 2025, which is in line with the grant requirements.
- The capital improvement grant matches what we raise, up to \$250,000 – meaning they will cover half the cost of the identified project. As of April 20<sup>th</sup>, we have \$175,000 in individual pledges (70% of our goal). While Trustees have also pledged up to \$62,500 from their annual distribution, we are striving to eliminate their obligation as they have other pressing needs, i.e., an HVAC system that must be replaced this year.
- You can help us secure our match and eliminate the Trustees' obligation by pledging now to the North Church Sacred Places Challenge and fulfilling your commitment by September 1, 2025.
- If you or your employer have a foundation or you work for an employer that matches employee charitable gifts, North Church may be eligible for their support. Go to our dedicated webpage for a downloadable packet of information tailored to employers and foundations (see page 2).

### Rising to the Challenge

**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.*

For more, visit <https://northchurchindy.com/sacred-places/>

## Frequently asked questions:

### **Where can I find the North Church Sacred Places Challenge dedicated webpage?**

Our dedicated webpage is found at <https://northchurchindy.com/sacred-places/>. There, you will find videos, impact statements, “Rising to the Challenge” testimonials, pledge forms, employer giving information, and more.

### **When do you need my commitment? How can I make a pledge?**

Please pledge now so we know what to expect. You can get a Sacred Places Challenge pledge form at the front desk or on our dedicated webpage. The form has instructions for returning forms to the church (via the offering plate, mail, e-mail, or at the front desk). Gifts are due September 1, 2025.

### **How do I donate stock?**

Please visit our dedicated webpage or contact our business administrator, Nancy Ricketts, for instructions. Please ensure that your gift of stock specifies it is intended for the Sacred Places Challenge. To reach Nancy, call 317.924.2612 or send an e-mail message to [nricketts@northchurchindy.com](mailto:nricketts@northchurchindy.com).

### **Can I complete my pledge over several years?**

Our immediate focus is on securing matching funds for the project underway and meeting the Indiana Landmarks 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.

If you are interested in discussing a larger opportunity to support capital improvements over multiple years, please contact Pastor Darren or Grafton Day ([gaffstrategicfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:gaffstrategicfundraising@gmail.com)) to arrange a meeting.

### **What are North Church’s financial obligations for this grant? How are we doing?**

The Indiana Landmarks’ Sacred Places Indiana Fund provides one-to-one (1:1) matching grants for capital improvements, which means they match what North Church raises for the masonry repair project.

To date we have secured \$175,000 (70%) of our \$250,000 individual-gift goal. Your pledge to the North Church Sacred Places Challenge will help us meet our match. Please fill out a pledge form or reach out to Pastor Darren or Grafton Day ([gaffstrategicfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:gaffstrategicfundraising@gmail.com)) to discuss how you can support our goal.

### **Who oversees the repairs? Who is responsible for fundraising?**

The Trustees Committee, in partnership with our building manager, 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.

### **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 operational budget.

Gifts to the Sacred Places Challenge go to a dedicated North Church fund earmarked for building improvements; the first project focuses on exterior masonry repairs to the sanctuary.