

West Newton Street Accessible Entrance, Lobby, and Chapel Renovations

Spring and Summer 2020

Union United Methodist Church



We are thrilled to begin the long-awaited church building renovations to **create a new lobby and accessible entrance at our West Newton Street entrypoint**. This entrance will include a three-stop vertical platform (wheelchair) lift that will make the entirety of Union’s facilities accessible to those of varying physical abilities.

Design & Project Overview

1. **West Newton Street Accessible Entrance** — Persons will enter Union at street level into a new lobby that will have a three-stop lift and new sets of stairs that connect the mezzanine lobby, first floor (chapel, sanctuary, offices) and lower level (Cooper Hall, kitchen, classrooms, restrooms).



West Newton Street Door (before)



West Newton Street Door (current)

2. **Welcome Lobby** — The new lobby will be a fresh, inviting blend of modern and traditional elements that will warmly welcome persons to our community. We will feature various visual pieces that tell Union’s story, including historic congregational photos, pastors’ portraits, and artwork.



Artistic Rendering of New Welcome Lobby

3. **Chapel** — Our beloved chapel will be refreshed into a more flexible, versatile space.
 - a. We will remove and replace the pews with moveable (and comfortable!) chairs.
 - b. The raised platforms (pulpit and piano stages), as well as the heating fancoil unit, will be lowered. New carpets will be installed. Plaster and baseboards will be retouched. (We will preserve the pulpit lectern and altar rails, and intend to make them moveable.)
 - c. Finally, we will also install six new electrical outlets (up from three) that will better enable us to use the entirety of the space without running extension cords, as we presently do.

These updates will enable Union to have an even more dynamic worship experience in the chapel, including “church in the round” (i.e., placing the Word, Communion Table, and Baptismal Font at the center of the congregation, which surrounds these elements on all sides). Moreover, this space will offer more flexibility for meetings and gatherings of the congregation and neighborhood groups.

4. **Lower Level**
 - a. All ductwork in the kitchen and hallway (from the buildings former heating system), as well as kitchen cabinets and interior walls, will be removed — paving the way for the later construction of our commercial kitchen.
5. **Miscellaneous**
 - a. Electrical grid will be updated from 200 to 600 amps.
 - b. Fire alarm system covering the renovated areas will be installed.
 - c. We will complete **asbestos abatement** in the chapel, lobby, and lower hallway areas.

Architect and Contractor

- Our longstanding architect and preservation planning firm, McGinley Kalsow & Associates, has designed this project — under the leadership of Wendall Kalsow (principal), who has worked with Union for more than two decades.
- The Board of Trustees, after a public bidding and interview process, has entered into a contract with CVC Installations, a Beverly-based firm that has previously worked with McGinley Kalsow & Associates and has excellent independently-verified references.
- The architect/project manager is a woman of color and the construction site supervisor (foreman) is a person of color.

Timeline

- The project was slated to begin March 16th, but has been delayed due to construction restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Anticipated project completion was July/August 2020.
- We will begin renovations as soon as restrictions are lifted — hopefully completing the project by the early fall.

Funding

- **The total project cost is \$650,000** — and is being funded through a combination of grants and donations.
 - Between 2014 - 2016, Union has already spent \$200,000 to date to complete historical preservation planning, architectural and engineering design, installation of exterior door, exterior pointing and stonework.
 - The work to be completed this spring & summer will cost \$450,000.
- We have received the following funding sources:
 - \$400,000 from the City of Boston Community Preservation Fund
 - \$100,000 from the Hebrews 11 Fund of the New England Conference of The United Methodist Church
 - \$75,000 from the Massachusetts Historical Commission
 - \$50,000 stock gift from a friend of Union
 - \$25,000 in other Union funds
 - (The above totals **do not** include “Campaign for Union” capital funds for forthcoming commercial kitchen and other renovations.)

Disruptions

- The Chapel, first floor restroom, main office, and current ministerial/pastors’ office, and kitchen hallway will not be usable during the renovation period.
- The Ministerial / Pastors Office will be relocated to its former space (the current gallery).
- The main “weekday” entrance for Union will be through the lower level entrance to Cooper Hall. A camera and remote buzzer system will be installed for safety, security, and convenience.

Opportunity

Union is a really special place: progressive, multicultural, spirited. For centuries, Union has inspired hope and served the public good. Through these renovations and our strategic ministry plan, we stand ready to be a beacon of hope for generations to come.

