

VILLAGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Restoration/Renovation Campaign

Updating the Church to 21st Century Standards
While Preserving its 19th Century Design

VISION

The Village Congregational Church resolves to live its life in a way that is pleasing to God and faithful to the gifts that the congregation has been given. To achieve this level of spirituality, we will fulfill the purposes to which we have been called, will accept one another, teach and discern the will of God in our lives and value the traditions that have made us strong while understanding that Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, makes all things new.

Since its founding nearly 175 years ago the Church has actively served and serviced a growing and diverse community through outreach, accessibility and flexibility that have been the hallmarks of the Church. These values remain today just as important, if not more so!

To fulfill these vital commitments, the Church must

- insure that its historic building remains solid;
- increase its active participatory leadership within the community;
- enhance and broaden its outreach programs;
- expand its membership enlistment initiatives and
- broaden its Christian Education and Sunday School opportunities.

MISSION

To solidify this strong visionary platform for the Village Congregational Church by 2010, its 175th year, and to assure an orderly growth in membership, program development, Christian education initiatives, spiritual and lay leadership and fund raising programs, the following benchmarks and implementation strategies need to be approved by the congregation:

- a draft strategic plan of action covering all aspects of Church life will be completed by November 2007. After discussion, appropriate adjustments (as necessary) and final approval by the congregation, the plan will form the basis for all programs, projects and activities that grow and enhance the Church's role in the community;
- the restoration of the exterior of the Church began in the fall of 2007 with completion expected by fall 2008;
- the final decisions on the proposed interior renovations, although partially influenced by the exterior restorations, will be reevaluated in the fall/early winter of 2007/08. Priorities need to be firmly established by mid January 2008 in order to contractors can provide costs, designs & timelines for approval from the congregation at the semi-annual meeting in May;
- the capital fund raising programs will be restructured. During the last quarter of 2007, a series of reorganization and restructuring efforts will position the Church to begin programs to increase annual unrestricted revenues, raise the necessary resources to complete the current restoration and renovation objectives and lay the financial foundations to expand the human life of the Church through outreach, education and spiritual enrichment;
- the initiatives to identify new members for the Church, effective, sensitive enlistment procedures and continuing membership stewardship will be thoroughly reviewed and new operational programs (if appropriate and necessary) will be implemented.

Semi-annual benchmark reviews will be undertaken by members of the Church Committee, reviews that will be coordinated with the Church's semi-annual meetings. Adjustments and refinements, when necessary, appropriate and approved by the congregation, will be made.

CORE VALUES:

Two fundamental words epitomize the basic core values of the Church – faith and works. Works is an outgrowth of faith, but faith without works is dead. The increasing participatory involvement and committed service of its congregation takes place in both passive and active ways – passive, for example, by opening the Church readily and continually to the greater community regardless of religious affiliation; active by such programs and activities as food baskets, water walks, Sunday School, Christian Education initiatives and other community-wide occasions.

The commitment to pass to others given gifts, talents, and living experiences represents a core element of each Congregationalist and has been an integral part of Church life for nearly 175 years.

THE CAMPAIGN

Two years ago, it became clearly evident that the exterior of our national historic church was in dire need of restoration. Following extensive study by outside engineers, a series of priorities were established to stabilize various sections of the building. There was and is a strong sense of urgency to complete the restorations by the end of 2008.

Coupled with the exterior restoration and because of mandatory Federal and State barrier free requirements, a number of interior renovations will be necessary. However, these interior renovations will greatly enhance the Church's ability to broaden its outreach and more effectively serve its members.

The first phase objective is \$900,000 for the exterior restorations and planning for interior renovation priorities. As of early January 2008, over \$200,000 has been committed.

SUMMARY OF EXTERIOR RESTORATION PROJECT

- Masonry repointing exterior
- Masonry repointing belfry interior
- Chimney repoint/rebuild
- Portico/Bell Tower wall rebuild
- Buttress rebuild
- Remove/reset granite steps
- Miscellaneous roof slate replacement

OUR INVITATION TO YOU

The Church has played an important and always an open role in the Blackstone Valley since 1835 and those same commitments and assets must continue for future generations. The Church was blessed with the support of the Whitin and Mason families when the new building was erected in 1898. With strong and involved spiritual and lay leadership ever since, the Church has grown the investment portfolio, has created outreach and Christian Education programs that have become a vital aspect of the Church's spiritual and service lives throughout the Blackstone Valley.

We are proud both of our continuing role and measurable achievements and invite you to join with us as we grow the Church to insure that it becomes an integral part of the spiritual lives for future generations.