



Our Time... Our Opportunity

First Parish York
Restoring Our Historic Buildings

Our Time. Our Need...

Over the centuries, the First Parish Church building has stood the test of time. Dating back to 1747, it stands as the centerpiece of the Village of York to this day. Still serving people in the congregation, in the region, and beyond, it exhibits resilience and determination in facing challenges while supporting the congregation and the community at large.

But First Parish has aging church buildings—the church steeple leans and is shedding shingles. The spire is ailing. Aged timbers supporting the church's roof, and the belfry needs reinforcing. Other buildings are also in need of attention.

The estimated cost is \$350,000 to repair the steeple and other structural elements of the church roof. Additionally, other buildings need to be more energy efficient and cost effective, and usable for the community and non-profit organizations. Estimates for those improvements are approximately \$250,000.



The steeple after a recent storm underscores the urgency of this priority.

Our Time. Our Solution...

We have established a board-designated fund, *The Bobbie and Jack Watson Building and Grounds Fund (The Fund.)* The Fund's stated objective will be for the improvement, preservation, maintenance, and repair of the buildings and grounds of First Parish.

The initial target for the fund will be \$1M. A portion of the principle of the Fund will be used to deal with the most urgent property needs mentioned, while establishing a targeted reserve of \$400,000 (equal to 5 percent of the estimated insured value of our buildings) to fund other property-related contingencies over the next 10-15 years.

Upon the decision of the congregation—the vote supporting Warrant Number Five at the annual meeting regarding the Capital Campaign—we will commence to move forward with the above stated goal.

The Church's current situation arises in part from the inability to adequately fund the Buildings and Grounds (B&G) coffers through the annual budgeting process due to other priorities. The Assessors are committed to making changes required to balance our annual budget while adequately funding B&G on an annual basis. This should permit B&G to commit to and manage a multi-year maintenance program for the repaired and upgraded church buildings.

Capital Campaign Committee

Don Gough, Co-Chair

Chris Lindop, Co-Chair

Joey Donnelly

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Eric Dupee

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