1. Overview of Current Programs
   a. Partners Overview
   b. National Fund for Sacred Places
   c. Capital Campaign Consulting Services
   d. Guide to Community Engagement Services
   e. Making Homes for the Arts in Sacred Places
   f. Nordic Heritage Churches - Phase 2
   g. Sacred Places in Central Appalachia
   h. Playing and Preserving
   i. Rural Halo Study

2. Links
For over 30 years, Partners for Sacred Places has empowered congregations to better serve their communities and to restore and maintain their historic structures.

Partners' approach relies, in part, on a fuller understanding of the “public value” of sacred places and how these anchor institutions ensure healthy, resilient communities. Partners builds the capability of congregational leadership for building care, shared use, and capital fundraising through training programs, fundraising assistance, and organizational and facility assessments.

Partners builds the capability of congregational leadership for building care, shared use, and capital fundraising through training programs, fundraising assistance, and organizational and facility assessments. In the process, Partners becomes a trusted resource and guide as congregations examine and weigh opportunities.

Partners engages with congregations to focus on critical areas such as:

- **Asset-mapping and community engagement** — assisting congregations to develop new relationships with neighbors and potential community partners

- **Strategic partnerships and space sharing** — brokering agreements between sacred places and arts, food justice, health, education, and social service programs

- **Capital campaign strategies to support repairs and renovations** that preserve significant historic features and make spaces usable for new community programs

- **Collaborative initiatives among unrelated congregations** in a neighborhood to encourage coordinated outreach, space usage, joint marketing and interpretive events, and coordinated work with public agencies for lighting, signage, and streetscape improvements

**Contact Us**

For more information, please contact us at: partners@sacredplaces.org or (215) 567-3234, ext. 21
Halo Study of your congregation tells the story of the impact you have on the engines of neighborhood health and vitality.

The Halo Study toolkit emerged out of a research collaboration between Partners for Sacred Places and the Program for Religion and Social Policy Research at the University of Pennsylvania that designed a method to measure the economic impact of sacred places in their communities. Based on interviews and in-depth financial analysis of 90 congregations in Philadelphia, Fort Worth, and Chicago, that study found that the average historic sacred place in an urban environment generates over $1.7 million annually in economic impact. Congregations employ, on average, five full-time and six part-time staff, and purchase goods and services from a network of local small businesses and vendors, sustaining an important community economic ecosystem.

Sacred places are also magnets for visitors, attracting, on average, 780 unique visits each week. Of these visits, only 11% are made for worship—the other 89% are made by community members attending events or utilizing programs of the congregation. This study also affirms a body of research dating back to the mid-1990s showing that 87% of the beneficiaries of community programs and events housed in sacred places are not members of the religious congregation.

Partners has worked with congregations throughout the country to make use of Halo to:

- Tell the story of their church’s ministry and space in a way that appeals to civic leaders and community stakeholders who don’t speak the language of faith
- Communicate the true community value of ministries and program emphases (e.g., food pantries, arts programming, concert series, etc.)
- Bolster annual stewardship campaigns and larger capital fundraising efforts
- Make projections that strengthen grant applications
- Advocate for sacred places when unexpected challenges arise, such as proposals to tax nonprofit organizations in a given locality

**Contact Us**

For more information, please contact:

Joshua Castaño, Director of Community Engagement
at jcastano@sacredplaces.org or (215) 567-3234
The National Fund for Sacred Places is a grant-making and resource program of Partners for Sacred Places in collaboration with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The National Fund is guided by an Advisory Committee, bringing together faith leaders, architects, and philanthropists from across the country to inform the grant-making process. Through this partnership, at least 100 houses of worship will be awarded more than $20 million for capital projects over 8 years beginning in 2016.

What Congregations Receive

Each year, the group of 12 to 15 congregations that is selected to participate in the National Fund program receives two forms of program support:

1. WRAPAROUND SUPPORT SERVICES
   Congregations receive training, planning grants, and pro-bono consulting services to make sure projects are well-planned and capital campaigns are successful; and

2. CAPITAL GRANTS
   After receiving these services, each congregation may request a capital grant of $50,000 – $250,000, for brick-and-mortar projects, designed to leverage broader community support. Capital grants require matching funds, which must be raised after being awarded into the program. Matching guidelines are available on the program website.

Funding from the National Fund...

helped us leverage new funders. The grant from the National Fund was like a good housekeeping ‘seal of approval.’

Barbara Hogue, Christ Church Preservation Trust, 2016-17 Participant

How to Apply

Online Letters of Intent (LOI) are being accepted for the 2021-2022 program year, the fifth funding cycle to date.

- JANUARY 26, 2021 - LOI available online
- MARCH 16, 2021 – LOI due
- JULY 14, 2021 – Full applications due
- OCT. 13, 2021 – Final Notifications

More information, including the online LOI link, is available at: https://fundforsacredplaces.org/how-to-apply/.
What We Are Looking For

The National Fund staff team and Advisory Committee assess applicants according to five core criteria, while building a participant group that reflects our country’s geographic, cultural, and religious diversity.

NATIONAL/REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE
Buildings owned and occupied by an active congregation telling a unique story about its contribution to the landscape of American religion across history.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Congregations with innovative programs that serve members and the broader community.

PROJECT SCOPE AND NEED
Urgent repair needs that require financial support beyond the internal capacity of the congregation.

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN READINESS
The capacity to complete a significant capital fundraising campaign and leverage a National Fund grant to raise matching funds.

HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS
Congregations with strong clergy and lay leadership, financial health, and the energy and support for a vibrant future.

Geographic Spread of Sacred Places Supported through 2019
Capital Campaign Consulting Services
Maximizing Support from Members and the Larger Community

Customized, Comprehensive, Community-Oriented Campaigns
Every congregation is the center of a unique network of parishioners, neighbors, and friends. Having worked with many thousands of sacred places across the country, Partners is uniquely positioned to help faith and lay leaders leverage these networks for campaign success.

No two congregations are the same, and it follows that no two successful capital campaigns can be the same. Partners works with each of its clients to design and implement a fundraising strategy that represents and celebrates the congregation’s distinctive history, heritage, and culture. Services offered include:

Feasibility Studies
The foundation of a successful campaign, the feasibility study is an opportunity for a congregation to gauge the receptiveness of members and the community to its campaign; to identify and recruit volunteers, campaign leadership, and major donors; and to identify realistic fundraising goals and timelines.

Capital Campaigns
Partners provides comprehensive consulting services that address both the internal and external components of a campaign. Beginning with prospect research and continuing campaign evaluation, Partners provides congregations the consultation and support they need to ensure their campaign success, including:

- Case Study Assistance
- Building a Pyramid of Gifts
- Donor Identification
- Material Design
- Media Strategy
- Volunteer Training
- Donor Strategic Approach
- Campaign Evaluation
The Partners Brand

For nearly 30 years, Partners for Sacred Places has empowered congregations to restore their buildings and revitalize their communities. This work, vital to faith communities and to the neighborhoods they serve, comes at a cost. Maintaining a safe, healthy, and welcoming environment for worship and services puts potentially unbearable pressure on a congregation’s budget. A successful capital campaign is often all that stands between a brighter future and shuttered doors.

At Partners, we approach Capital Campaign Consulting Services as an extension of our mission, an important service to and resource for our core constituency. Building on the trust we have earned in faith communities over two decades, the innovative fundraising tools and approaches that we have developed, and the expertise and skills of our staff, Partners’ Capital Campaign Consulting Services are characterized by:

Creativity: Partners recognizes, appreciates and celebrates the unique story that every historic sacred place has to tell. We are dedicated to researching and developing innovative tools and services that empower congregations to understand the singular role that each plays in the past, present and future of the community.

Collaboration: Partners fosters new and stronger relationships between stakeholders in the faith, philanthropy, preservation and academic sectors. We help congregations open their doors to the community, and we help communities see the value - social, cultural, and economic - of investing in local congregations and parishes.

Quality: Over two decades, Partners has cultivated an unparalleled expertise in the field of older sacred places. Our advocacy work is strengthened by partnerships with leading academics and policy-makers. Our programs are piloted and adapted before implementation and evaluated and updated frequently to ensure their continued relevance and impact.

Contact Us
For more information about Capital Campaign Consulting Services, please contact:

Gianfranco Grande
Senior Vice President
ggrande@sacredplaces.org
office: 866.796.0297, x24
mobile: 312.933.0611
Revitalizing Sacred Spaces, Maximizing Impact for Ministry:

A Guide to Community Engagement Services

Partners for Sacred Places

At the intersection of heritage, faith, & community
About Partners for Sacred Places

Partners for Sacred Places is the only national, non-sectarian nonprofit organization devoted to the preservation, sound stewardship, and active community use of sacred places across the United States. Working at the intersection of heritage, faith, and community, Partners’ mission is to build a shared sense of responsibility for the future of sacred places.

A Research-Driven Portfolio of Services

Since its founding in 1989, Partners has established a significant presence in over thirty cities and states, and worked intensively with more than 4,000 clergy and lay leaders, building the fundraising capacity and sustainability of more than 1,000 congregations, maximizing the value and impact of their sacred buildings for ministry. For three decades Partners has provided training, technical assistance, and grants to several thousand congregations and other local organizations, representing the needs and concerns of over 100,000 older, community-serving places in towns and cities in the U.S.

Partners for Sacred Places is dedicated to researching and developing tools and services that empower congregations, helping the stewards of sacred places articulate the social, cultural, and economic value of their buildings and ministries for the wider community. In addition to grass-roots work in communities, Partners also advocates on both the local and national stage for greater public investment in congregations and parishes, persuading individuals, foundations and government to free up additional resources for older houses of worship.

Since its founding, Partners for Sacred Places has worked with congregations to embrace the Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) model. ABCD is a challenge to the traditional approach to rebuilding communities. It provides a new framework for thinking about neighborhoods and new strategies for mobilizing congregations in a positive way.

While traditional community development tends to focus on a neighborhood’s deficiencies, the Asset-Based Community Development approach focuses on the gifts and talents of individuals and the capacity of neighbors and neighborhoods to be producers of change—to change communities from within. ABCD allows congregations to cultivate connections within the community, mobilize the capacities of local individuals, associations, and institutions and empower community residents to become leaders.
Building Congregational Capacity through Transformative Workshops, Trainings, and Targeted Support

Over 30 years, Partners has established a groundbreaking reputation for developing new tools and programs that assist congregations in making the most of their properties as assets for ministry. Our resources focus on helping a congregation live out its mission by sharing its space, collaborating with its community, and serving its neighbors in new and powerful ways.

The New Dollars/New Partners Training

New Dollars is a capacity-building training program that transforms how a congregation sees itself and its place in the community. Through the training process clergy and lay leaders discover and learn to articulate their church or synagogue’s story in new ways, developing a compelling case statement that focuses on “who we are,” “what we have,” and “what we do.”

New Dollars helps a congregation lay the foundation for cultivating and leveraging new relationships, allowing them to unleash their unique heritage as a tool for recruiting supporters, restoring their infrastructure, and revitalizing their community. New Dollars consists of four workshop modules, led by Partners’ staff and expert consultants. Training is delivered over several months to allow congregations to put their newfound skills to work between each session.

The New Dollars training often serves as a catalyst for new community partnerships and strengthening existing relationships. When paired with Asset Mapping and the other tools outlined in the training toolkit, a congregation’s growing network of stakeholders soon comes to encompass relationships with passionate local and regional advocates. Partners for Sacred Places has unparalleled expertise and experience with helping congregations leverage and expand upon their new relationships in creative ways that support ministry, programming, building care, and fundraising.

Training Modules

Module I: Making the Case for Your Sacred Place
Congregations begin by learning to articulate a compelling case for support based on the value of their architectural assets, their heritage in the context of the wider community, and the public value of their outreach and ministry.

Module II: Developing New Community Partnerships
Congregations learn the Asset-Based Community Development model, which furnishes leaders with new tools and strategies for expanding their church or synagogue’s circle of community stakeholders and potential funders. This changes the way congregations view themselves and their relationship to other neighborhood institutions, enabling significant paradigm shifts and laying the groundwork for dynamic community partnerships.

Module III: A Capital Campaign Primer & Tapping Community Funding Resources
Congregations learn about asset-based practices for cultivating a strong culture of giving, as well as the structure and timeline of successful capital campaigns and initiatives. Trainees are introduced to the roles of congregational leadership, volunteers, and outside professionals in successful fundraising efforts.

Module IV: Tapping Community Funding Resources
Congregations learn how to conduct an external capital campaign and explore best practices by examining case-studies of community-wide fundraising campaigns conducted across the country. As a part of this session congregational leaders are guided through the development of an action plan to move forward toward their fundraising goals after the training is over.
Linking the Congregation and the Neighborhood: Welcoming New Community Partners

Asset-Mapping is a powerful tool that Partners provides to help churches, synagogues, and other houses of worship identify new stakeholders and develop strategies for connecting congregational assets, particularly underutilized buildings and spaces, to other assets in the community—physical, individual, associational, and institutional.

Step One: Forming a Congregational Advisory Group

To support the success of the asset mapping event, Partners helps the congregation identify and convene an Advisory Group composed of key community leaders.

The Advisors assist the church or synagogue with plans for the asset mapping, including identifying potential participants and inviting them on behalf of the congregation, and can play a longer-term role in supporting the congregation’s larger work to ensure the future of its historic sacred place.
In the Asset-Mapping process, a congregation’s leaders, both lay and ordained, come together alongside stakeholders and leaders from the wider community to participate in a dynamic process, facilitated by Partners, that uncovers the full range of a church or synagogue’s assets.

By exploring possibilities for activating overlooked spaces, talents, and relationships as new resources for ministry, Asset-Mapping events spark valuable new ideas, initiatives, and community partnerships. As newly articulated strengths and resources are unleashed in the community, congregations begin to grow an energized network of supporters—both locally and regionally—thereby strengthening their case for support and unlocking new, previously untapped sources of community funding.

The Asset-Mapping process results in a highly valuable, systematic inventory of a congregation’s resources for ministry. At the completion of this service congregations also receive a written report reflecting Partners’ prioritized, actionable guidance for maximizing the value and impact of their buildings and other spaces.

Step Three: Exploring Space-Sharing Arrangements and Revenue Generating Community-Use as a Tool for Ministry and Fundraising

The Asset Mapping process also helps a congregation discern the value of their property for mission, community, and potential new uses, including community partnerships and space-sharing arrangements that may yield new streams of rental revenue.

As a part of Asset Mapping—particularly when a congregation’s leaders are interested in space-sharing or rental arrangements with other community groups but uncertain of how that idea will be received—Partners staff can facilitate a conversation bringing together clergy, lay leaders, and interested community stakeholders to explore the congregation’s level of interest in and readiness to pursue new space-sharing arrangements.

Partners has significant experience facilitating space-sharing matches between client congregations and allied local organizations, including community nonprofits, small businesses, and arts groups, and is well-equipped to offer customized recommendations and guidance on a wide range of topics such as:

- Pursuing space-sharing partnerships and rental arrangements that fit well with a congregation’s mission and identity
- Which underutilized spaces on a church’s campus are best suited to space-sharing relationships, and how to effectively repurpose and ready spaces for rental
- Guidance regarding marketing and messaging, including hands-on help with getting the word out to local community groups, small businesses, and potential one-time renters that a church has space available
Designing New Uses for Congregational Assets

Partners has always played an important role in bringing faith communities together with preservation specialists and designers committed to the flourishing of sacred places. Congregations interested in transforming their spaces for new uses and open to modifying their buildings—while still maintaining their essential character—can choose to add a Design Charrette component to their Asset Mapping event.

Why a Design Charrette?

A design charrette event is a valuable way to bring the creativity and skills of architects and designers (typically pro bono architects sponsored by the American Institute of Architects) to bear on the challenges faced by churches and synagogues committed to the responsible stewardship of their historic properties who are nevertheless interested in adapting their sacred spaces for new uses, including shared community use.

In a charrette event, groups of designers receive input from congregational and community leaders about their vision and hopes for new ways their buildings can serve their goals. Building on the output of asset mapping and the input of community leaders, civic stakeholders and local residents, the charrette engages them in new, creative ways of thinking about the site.

Participating architects then embark upon an intensive process that quickly generates a range of design suggestions for adapting a congregation’s space. The experience generates plans and elevation drawings that help a congregation visualize how its property can function in new ways, linking spaces more effectively, and bringing new programs to underused space.
“What’s really unique about working with Partners was that we weren’t just getting help with soliciting money and professional advice. They genuinely cared and were concerned about the future of the church.

They showed us that we need to pay attention to how our buildings are being used so that we can maximize not only income, but our mission.”

– Rev. Rochelle Stackhouse, Center Church (UCC)
Hartford, CT
Halo Effect: Assessing a Congregation’s Social and Economic Impact

A Halo Study of a church, synagogue, or other house of worship can lay the groundwork for a successful outside capital campaign by convincing new community stakeholders of the value—social, economic, and civic—represented by a congregation’s ministries.

Sacred places function as de facto community centers, yet often struggle to communicate their economic and social value to civic leaders. That is why Partners developed The Economic Halo Effect of Sacred Places, a tool used to calculate the localized economic impact of a single congregation or group of churches or synagogues.

A Halo assessment strengthens a congregation’s case statement for funding and raises enthusiasm among leaders, laying important groundwork for a dynamic and successful capital campaign. By effectively communicating a congregation’s value to the wider community, a Halo assessment can make a compelling case for philanthropic and individual donor support of sacred places as engines of neighborhood health and vitality.

Partners has worked with congregations throughout the country to:

- Tell the story of their church’s ministry and space in a way that appeals to civic leaders and community stakeholders who don’t speak the language of faith
- Communicate the value of a given program (e.g., a food pantry) or program emphasis (e.g., arts programming, a concert series, etc.)
- Bolster annual stewardship campaigns and larger capital fundraising efforts
- Provide data that strengthens grant applications
- Advocate for sacred places in the face of threats such as tax assessments
Average Annual Economic Halo Value per Congregation

$1,707,249

- $679,511 education and childcare (40%)
- $549,073 direct spending (32%)
- $478,665 catalytic effects on local economy
- $100,296 invisible safety net (6%)
- $375,944 magnet effect, drawing visitors to the neighborhood (22%)

Note: Invisible safety net: 5.9%, recreation space: 0.1% ($2,425)

Research shows that 87% of the beneficiaries of community programs and events housed in sacred places are not members of the resident religious congregation.

13% Congregation members
87% Non-member beneficiaries of community programs
Discovery and Feasibility Studies: The Foundation of Successful Capital Campaigns

With Partners’ support, congregations can engage civic leaders and stakeholders, partner with community institutions, and build a strong case for the public value of older sacred places, leading to successful community-wide fundraising efforts. Following Asset Mapping and other community engagement efforts, Partners’ capital campaign services help a congregation take next steps toward their fundraising goals—effectively leveraging the support of external institutions and community donors, and securing new partnerships that ensure the future of older buildings.

The Discovery Study: A Tool For Understanding Your Place in the Landscape

Much the same as how a lawyer might obtain knowledge in a “discovery” phase to strengthen his or her case, Partners’ discovery study was developed as a tool for congregations to better understand their role within the wider community and identify assets they can leverage to strengthen their case for funding. Through one-on-one conversations Partners analyzes the community’s perception of a congregation and its work, generating valuable insight and recommendations for future fundraising possibilities. This serves as a vital foundation for a subsequent feasibility study and eventual capital campaign.

The Feasibility Study: Preparing for Successful Community-Wide Fundraising

The feasibility study is an essential tool for preparing and accomplishing a successful community-wide capital campaign. The feasibility study process is an opportunity for a congregation to gauge the receptiveness of members and the community to its campaign; refine its case statement based on feedback; and to identify and recruit volunteers, campaign leadership, and major donors; and to identify realistic fundraising goals and timelines.
**Discovery vs. Feasibility Study**

A discovery study looks outward to analyze the current state of the church or synagogue and its presence in the life of the community, providing key information about the community’s perceptions and feelings about the congregation and its building. A feasibility study offers increased focus on the receptiveness and openness of the community and other potential stakeholders to the message of a capital campaign. Whereas a feasibility study focuses on fundraising and related financial questions by providing an assessment of giving capacity to a potential campaign, Partners’ discovery study focuses on learning about a church or synagogue’s community context. It is often a good first step for congregations that want to complete successful community-wide capital fundraising, but may require initial efforts to understand and engage their community.

**Capital Campaigns**

Partners also provides comprehensive consulting services to support congregations in preparing for, carrying out, and completing successful capital campaigns. Beginning with prospect research and continuing through campaign evaluation, Partners provides congregations the consultation and support they need to ensure their campaign’s success.
Escalating rents and property costs have led to a shortage of appropriate and affordable space for artists to use to create, rehearse, present their work. Artists and arts organizations are routinely priced out of areas that become popular due to the very atmosphere they helped generate. At the same time, many faith communities operate buildings with unused or underused space, and are open to working with arts groups as partners. These congregations are driven by developing relationships with new community members, growing earned income, and supporting organizations that have a mission that aligns with their own.

*Making Homes for the Arts in Sacred Places* (AiSP) aims to build the capacity of both sectors by creating mutually beneficial, sustainable partnerships that bring vitality and a sense of community to historic religious properties through the artistic work produced there. These partnerships can take the form of long-term space sharing arrangements, or more limited arrangements, including specific performances.

Partners launched AiSP in Philadelphia in 2011, followed by Chicago in 2012, Austin and Baltimore in 2016 to 2018, and NYC in 2019. Along the way, in partnership with Drexel University’s Graduate Arts Administration Program, Partners developed a replicable model to determine a region’s potential for the program, and to implement the program in partnership with local arts organizations.

Met with overwhelming enthusiasm, AiSP has resulted in more than a fifty new space-sharing relationships around the country, as well as the creation of a capacity-building training manual. Partners is working to build networks of artists, faith leaders, community partners, and funders to expand *Making Homes for the Arts in Sacred Places* into new communities in the future.
PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Partners’ AiSP program is based on the premise that, while challenges and opportunities are widespread, the method for addressing them must be highly localized. AiSP takes a strengths-based approach, founded on local research.

Steps to implementation may include:

• Inventory the physical and institutional assets of congregations in target area
• Gather feedback on needs of artists in target area with local arts service organization or other partners
• Promote AiSP locally, in partnership with local arts, religious, and civic organizations

Long-term partnerships:

• Share best practices with congregations and artists at training workshops
• Facilitate space sharing agreements between interested artists and sacred places

Short-term partnerships:

• Coordinate conversations between artists and congregational leadership
• Facilitate the production of performances
• Promote performances to a wider audience

LEARN MORE

Across America, Making Homes for the Arts in Sacred Places has become an important catalyst for creative, community-oriented collaborations. The program is revolutionizing how faith and arts communities see each other, and helping to usher in positive change within the neighborhoods that they both call home.

For more information, please contact Karen DiLossi, Director of Arts in Sacred Places at (215) 567-3234, x16, or via email at kdimossi@sacredplaces.org.
Overview

Nordic American churches in the Midwest face many challenges including shrinking membership, aging buildings, the loss of craft knowledge, and dwindling public support. The Preserving and Strengthening the Cultural Heritage of Sacred Places Project (Nordic Churches Project) responds to these shared challenges faced by the region’s historic churches by offering new tools and resources to sustain the presence of Nordic American heritage churches and preserve their buildings, folk arts, and traditions.

The Nordic Churches Project began in 2016 with a first phase that established an inventory of Nordic heritage churches in the upper Midwest and worked with a cohort of churches from the inventory to sustain their presence in the community and preserve their buildings by carrying out repair and restoration projects with local craftspeople and artisans. The second phase of this project continues that effort in the following ways.

Support for Nordic American folk-art traditions and projects

Churches that participated in the first phase of the project will receive additional capacity building training, designed to help congregations sustain their presence in their communities by leveraging their folk-art and folk traditions. These churches will also be eligible to apply for a second round of grants to commission original folk-art.

The following activities are available only to representatives from churches that participated in the project’s first phase:

- **Convening** in the summer of 2020 for churches to connect with their cohort peers, as well as outside groups and resources.
- **Workshops** to help congregations use their folk-art and other cultural assets to tell their story and develop new community connections.
- **Grants** of $2,500 to $10,000 to commission new work from Nordic American and Nordic folk artists (available by application).

Expand database of Nordic American churches in the Midwest

In 2016-2019 Partners for Sacred Places developed a public database of over 1,700 Nordic American churches (www.nordicamericanChurches.org). The database contains information on churches across the upper Midwest that reflects their roots in the cultures of and immigration from Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland, and Denmark. The public is invited to submit new information about and photographs of existing and additional churches for Partners to review and incorporate into the database.

PLEASE CONTACT US:

Emily Sajdak, Project Manager
Email: esajdak@sacredplaces.org
Phone: 866-796-0297 x93

Altar and rail by Jes Smidt
Bethlehem Lutheran, Askov, MN

Preserving and Strengthening the Cultural Heritage of Sacred Places:
Nordic Heritage Churches in the Upper Midwest

A PROJECT OF PARTNERS FOR SACRED PLACES
Overview
The Preserving and Strengthening the Cultural Heritage of Sacred Places in Central Appalachia project will identify culturally significant historic sacred places in Central Appalachian portions of West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina. A group of these sacred places will be invited to participate in a program that will help sustain their presence in the community and preserve their folk art, architecture, and cultural traditions by carrying out repair and restoration with local artists, craftspeople, and artisans.

Opportunities and Needs
This project responds to the shared challenges faced by many of the region’s historic sacred places as their architecture, arts, and traditions are increasingly at risk. For many congregations, membership is smaller and they have fewer resources than before. Some risk closing. In other cases, a non profit organization has taken on the care of a sacred place. This project will offer new tools and resources to make new friends for these important buildings, develop new sources of revenue and capital funds, and lastly – collaborate with artists and artisans to activate and restore their historic space for a lasting and sustainable presence.

Support and Training for Congregations
Two groups of interested sacred places (5-8 in each group) will be selected to participate in the New Dollars/New Partners for Your Historic Sacred Place training program. The training will help develop the capacity of the stewards of culturally significant historic sacred places, and prepare them to successfully implement repair and restoration projects through new fundraising efforts and community partnerships. The goals of the project are to:

- **Strengthen** your congregation or non-profit by learning how to tell your story to the community, better care for your building, and engage with neighbors to develop wide support for your historic sacred place.
- **Participate** in asset-mapping and fundraising training events that identify the strengths and assets of each sacred place; and identify the assets in the larger community—including artists and arts organizations, public sector leaders, community organizations, local donors, and civic leaders—and find connections between the two that can lead to new programs, partnerships, and funding.
- **Apply** for planning grants of $2,000-$7,500 (with a 1:2 in kind or cash match) and capital grants of $5,000-$15,000 (with a 1:1 in-kind or cash match) to fund successful repair and restoration projects involving the building fabric and/or associated arts and crafts.

PLEASE CONTACT US:
Joshua Castaño, Project Director
Email: jcastano@sacredplaces.org Phone: 215-567-3234 x18
Playing and Preserving

**Saving and Activating Philadelphia’s Historic Pipe Organs In Advancement of Music and Community**

**Project Summary**

*Playing and Preserving* will bring together a wide and diverse group of artists and community stakeholders in neighborhoods across Philadelphia. This project will build pioneering and innovative relationships between organists and other musicians, pipe organ builders and restorers, pipe organ enthusiasts, neighbors, families and children, along with congregations. Using new and creative approaches, *Playing and Preserving* will help to build public support for the preservation and active use of Philadelphia’s pipe organ heritage.

**A project of Partners for Sacred Places in collaboration with Astral Artists, the Curtis Institute and other partners, Playing and Preserving has been supported by the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage.**

**The Historic Pipe Organ in Philadelphia’s Sacred Places**

Philadelphia’s pipe organs and the churches that contain them are some of the city’s greatest treasures. However, the religious landscape in America has changed enormously over the last 20 to 30 years, as have musical tastes and technology. Both sacred places and their historic pipe organs are increasingly at risk through closure, neglect, and demolition. Many congregations have been unable to repair and maintain their organs and, in many cases, congregations have had to close or sell their buildings, further jeopardizing the sometimes significant and invaluable organs within. One expert estimated that nearly 50% of the instruments featured in the Organ Historical Society’s national convention in Philadelphia nearly twenty-years ago maybe be partially destroyed, dormant, or unplayable.

**Project Components**

In response to these challenges, Partners has proposed a bold series of services and collaborations that will identify key historic pipe organs at risk in sacred places throughout Philadelphia’s neighborhoods; activate these important instruments through technical assistance and support to the congregations that steward them; and work with project partners and artists to develop presentations and concerts that engage the local community in preservation through music.
1. **ASSESSING THE VULNERABILITY OF HISTORIC ORGANS AND READINESS OF CONGREGATIONS**

A field survey of up to 50 historic pipe organs outside of Center City – as identified by the project’s Advisory Committee of knowledgeable experts – will be conducted, working with a highly experienced organ restorer. The survey will document the construction, age, and condition of the instruments, as well as the strengths and vulnerabilities of the congregations and sacred places that house them. This will provide an important opportunity to bring attention to pipe organs in neighborhoods that are not as well known or widely played, but have enormous artistic or historical importance. The survey will also include field recordings of the instruments, adding this valuable information to publicly available databases on historic pipe organs.

2. **REPAIRING PIPE ORGANS AND BUILDING THE CAPACITY TO PLAY & PRESERVE**

With guidance from the Advisory Committee, ten congregations will be selected from the survey and invited to participate in a training and capacity-building program. Their leaders will gain knowledge and skills to better care for their instruments, fundraise for maintenance and capital investments, and make investments in the repair and restoration of their pipe organs. Each congregation will also receive a full conditions assessment of its instrument to guide repair and restoration, along with direct technical assistance to catalyze its efforts to fundraise for and preserve its instrument.

3. **MAKING THE PIPE ORGAN THE FOCUS FOR MUSIC, COMMUNITY, AND EDUCATION**

One sacred place participating in the program will be selected as a pilot for a series of performances and events that highlight the historic pipe organ in ways that juxtapose and combine genres and styles of music such as gospel, jazz, Classical and others. Each performance and presentation will be a holistic event that integrates the story of the historic sacred place, the community context, and the instrument, so that audiences can move beyond passive participation to profounder levels of personal engagement. The project will include a program of engagement and education at a local school in partnership with the pilot venue. This engagement with children and their families will focus on expanding the audience for programming at the pilot venue, building connections between neighbors and artists, and increasing the community’s appreciation for the importance of historic sacred places.

For more information, please contact:

**Joshua Thomas Castaño, Sr. Program Mgr.**

Partners for Sacred Places, 1700 Sansom Street, 10th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103

phone 215.567.3234 x18   jcastano@sacredplaces.org
Statewide Study of the Economic Halo Effect of Rural United Methodist Churches in North Carolina

A PROJECT OF PARTNERS FOR SACRED PLACES

Overview

Partners for Sacred Places (Partners) will calculate the community value of rural North Carolina United Methodist Churches (UMC) through a representative statewide study of over 85 congregations. This study will utilize the Economic Halo Effect of Sacred Places, a valuation tool created by Partners for a 2016 study of historic urban sacred places. The Halo tool was designed to generate data that congregations can use to broaden the support they need to sustain and grow their presence and outreach, and enrich congregational life and ministry. This will be the first representative study in the United States to calculate the contributions that congregations make to rural communities.

Opportunities and Needs

Rural United Methodist churches in North Carolina are vibrant and productive centers for their communities, yet many are at risk because of dwindling attendance. These congregations face difficult decisions regarding how to balance the care of buildings and the support of outreach. Until now, congregational and judicatory leaders have had limited ways to measure the impact these congregations have on their communities, or how to increase that value. This information is vital for leaders to make a strong case for investment in these congregations, and for congregations to consider as they make the most of their assets.

Activities and Outcomes

In collaboration with the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, Urban Institute, Partners will select a representative research sample of at least 85 congregations from The Duke Endowment’s list of approximately 1,300 Eligible Rural UMCs. Partners will gather data from congregational leaders, through surveys and interviews, to document over two dozen ways UMCs contribute value to their communities. Contributions are grouped into six categories:

1. Direct Spending
2. Education
3. Impact on individual lives, such as reducing drug addiction or gaining employment
4. Catalytic Effects, encouraging visitation and local spending
5. Invisible Safety Net
6. Open Space

Participating congregations will receive a written analysis of their community impact, and findings from the larger population will be shared as a written report, at the Duke Divinity School’s Convocation on the Rural Church, and at a broader convening of UMC, non-profit, government, preservation, and philanthropic leaders.

Average Annual Economic Halo Value per Congregation

$1,707,249

$679,511  
education (40%)

$478,665  
catalytic (28%)

$549,073  
direct spending (32%)

$100,296  
invisible safety net (6%)

$375,944  
magnet effect (22%)

Note: Invisible safety net: 5.9%, recreation space: 0.1% ($2,425)

Findings on America’s urban historic sacred places from the Economic Halo Effect of Sacred Places, 2016

PLEASE CONTACT US:
Rachel Hildebrandt, Sr. Program Manager
Email: rhildebrandt@sacredplaces.org Phone: 215-567-3234 x21
Links

www.sacredplaces.org – Website of Partners for Sacred Places

www.fundforsacredplaces.org – Website for the National Fund for Historic Sacred Places, a program of Partners for Sacred Places in collaboration with the National Trust for Historic Preservation


Webinar: Stewardship Triage and Recovery: Strengthening Giving during and after a Crisis

Webinar: Still Open to Serve: How to Stay Engaged and Continue to Serve Community during Social Distancing

www.urbangrace.org/facilities/ - A video from Urban Grace Church, Tacoma, WA, a congregation in the National Fund’s 2016-2017 Cohort