

**Park Street Church**  
**200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Capital Campaign – Phase II**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Answers to the following commonly asked questions are presented for the benefit of those desiring more information about the proposed second phase of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Capital Campaign renovation. This phase of the renovation will commence, provided that the congregation votes to approve it at the 2008 Annual Meeting on February 13, 2008 at 7 P.M. Following the Annual Meeting, monthly planning and project updates will be available at [www.parkstreet200.org/project\\_updates](http://www.parkstreet200.org/project_updates).**

**1. Who's idea was this anyway?**

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of a four year plan. Planning for the project started in 2004 and the congregation provided feedback on various aspects of the project between that time and the spring of 2007. Since that time, a large number of church leaders, volunteers, staff, committees, and professionals have been working on the details. The design plans currently being proposed are in the schematic design phase. Work on detail drawings will begin if the Annual Meeting vote passes. The congregation and all stakeholders will be engaged and kept abreast of the progress as the project planning continues.

**2. Why are we doing all this work?**

The congregation identified the need to a better location to provide a hospitable welcome visitors and regulars after Sunday services. First-time visitors to the church often enter the sanctuary and then leave immediately after the service, never realizing that there is fellowship going on down the hall behind the doorway inside the Meetinghouse's main entrance off of Tremont Street. The congregation also identified the need to replace the Meetinghouse's old, unreliable and hard to access seven stop elevator-lift system. Federal and state disability regulations also required the church to upgrade its access for persons with disabilities, which is fitting given the church's recent establishment of the Enable Boston ministry.

**3. Why does the renovation cost so much?**

The Meetinghouse interior renovation project is estimated to cost \$3.7 million. It will include a reconstruction of the present first floor area, now containing the Jones Chapel, into a spacious and welcoming hospitality center. We will expand the current restroom facilities and provide for more functional classroom space. Also included in this phase is a completely new elevator, accessing all three floors of the Meetinghouse building and the dismantling of the elevator and two lifts we have now. We also will be making numerous handicap accessibility improvements in the sanctuary and at the entrance to the Ockenga lobby. A fire alarm system and new furniture for this space is also included.

**4. How are we going to pay for this?**

Sufficient capital campaign contributions have been pledged to pay for the entire renovation. Conservative estimates of the payment of those pledges indicates that \$2.7 of the \$3.7 million cost

of the project will be received by the end of phase II. The remaining \$1 million may require that the church take a short term loan against reserves or from a financial institution. A similar loan amount was initially thought to be needed for phase I of the capital campaign renovation, however cash received from pledges eventually exceeded construction costs and a loan was not needed.

**5. Can we do this in stages?**

We could do this in stages, but it would not be financially prudent. Because all of the renovations are concentrated in the Meetinghouse building and common areas will be impacted, it makes sense to take advantage of cost and construction management savings by combining as many projects as we can afford to, according to pledges made and the work originally identified when the campaign was organized in 2006.

**6. Are we going to bid the project?**

During phase I of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary renovations, the church used a construction management firm who requested bids for all of the contract work. The church benefited from those low bids and paid the construction management firm a fee for its services. The cost for phase I was approximately \$250,000 less than originally estimated. While no decision has been made with regard to a construction management firm, it is assumed that a similar arrangement will be utilized for phase II.

**7. How long will the Meetinghouse be under construction?**

If approved at the Annual Meeting, construction is expected to begin in mid-May and be completed by Christmas, with a fresh new look for the kick-off of the church's Bicentennial celebration in January 2009.

**8. Will the elevator be useable during construction?**

The old elevator-lift system will be taken out of service fairly early in the construction process, leaving us without elevator-lift access to the sanctuary during most of June through December. Alternative arrangements will be made to assist those with disabilities through the #1 Park Street nursery via a temporary ramp, utilizing that building's recently renovated elevators. This ramp will have to be set up and taken down before and after each use. Congregants in wheel chairs will be able to access the sanctuary during all four Sunday services utilizing this temporary setup.

**9. What will happen to classes in the Jones Chapel during construction?**

Once construction has been completed, the one class held in the Jones Chapel on Sunday will be moved to another location within the church campus. The new meeting room layouts proposed in the renovation will allow for an even greater use of the Meetinghouse for classes and events.

**10. Will the Freedom Trail station still operate during construction?**

A modified version of the Freedom Trail station is planned for the normal summer tourist season. This is a very important outreach ministry, visited some days by thousands of visitors. We will be able to conduct most of the presentation and tour in the sanctuary during the summer of 2008.

**11. Where will the library go during construction?**

The library's books will be relocated to the area in #2 Park Street recently vacated by the Marketplace Ministry. It is yet to be determined if the library will have some limited access in that space during the renovation. If the renovation is approved at the Annual Meeting, the congregation will be made aware of more complete plans for the library as the details get worked out.

**12. When did we last renovate the first floor of the Meetinghouse?**

The last renovation took place in 1984.

**13. What will be done to preserve the historic nature of our nearly 200 year old Meetinghouse?**

Our architect, Don Mills, of Mills-Whitaker Architects, has won awards and is well known for his historic renovation design work. We cannot overstate the importance of maintaining the historical integrity of this nearly 200 year old Meetinghouse. It is a priority for all the committees and individuals involved in the process and has been taken into account all along the way.

**14. It seems a shame to dispose of Jones Chapel fixtures that were just replaced in 1984. Is there any way we can reuse them?**

The present plan is to hang the lamps, currently in the Jones Chapel, in the library and in the hallway outside the enlarged women's rest rooms and butler's pantry. The Jones Chapel doors will be re-used in the enhanced entrance to the library.

**15. If the choir room – narthex window is exposed similar to its pre-1838 configuration, what will happen to the stained glass window that currently resides in the narthex?**

We will work to incorporate the stained glass panels at another location within the church. The stained glass was installed in 1924 and is a sentimental fixture to many congregants.

**16. What is left to do on the original \$10 million list of capital campaign projects and when will they be done?**

To date, we have been blessed to have received \$5.8 million of the \$10 million pledge goal. Praise to God for his generosity through your gifts! Our ability to complete the list of projects initially proposed in 2006 will depend on the final amount of pledges made by the end of the campaign. The remaining projects include renovations to the sanctuary, improvements to the Ockenga lobby and Fellowship Hall, elevator and mechanical (heating, air conditioning and electrical systems) work in #2 and # 3 Park Street, as well as the renovation of the first three floors of #2 Park Street.

**17. If this phase of the renovation is approved at the 2008 Annual Meeting, how will the congregation find out about the ongoing details of the renovation?**

We will continue to post monthly updates on the church website at [www.parkstreet200.org/project\\_updates](http://www.parkstreet200.org/project_updates). We will also provide bulletin board notices and pictures, and solicit feedback, in order to keep the congregation informed and involved in the progress and developments related to phase II of the capital campaign renovation.