



Ten Churches Selected To Receive \$1.9 Million In Preservation Grants

PHILADELPHIA — Partners for Sacred Spaces, in partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, has identified ten churches that have been selected to receive presentation grants totaling \$1.9 million.



Built on a rectangular foundation, the sanctuary at the First Congregational Church of Long Beach is patterned after a Greek Cross. One of the first United Church of Christ congregations to declare itself open and affirming, members have led the campaign to change federal laws discriminating against LGBTQ people.



Featuring 31 stained-glass windows and a historic pipe organ, this Gothic Revival-style church started on a homestead near tryouts for Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Troupe. Today, the United Church of Christ congregation is a hub of community activity in Sheridan, Wyo., and hosts a substantial lunch program every week.



Vincentian Fathers founded this parish, built in 1851 by German and Irish immigrants, making it the Mother Church of the Vincentians' antipoverty work across the country. Today, the Vincent de Paul Catholic Church hosts three of northwest Philadelphia's major community-based programs.

The National Fund awardees for the 2019-20 program year are: the Second Presbyterian Church, Chicago; National City Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, Washington, DC; Paul's Episcopal Church, Syracuse, N.Y.; Charles Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, La.; Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin - Jodo Shinshu Shin, Honolulu; the First Congregational Church, Long Beach, Calif.; Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, Philadelphia;



The Charles Avenue Baptist Church's 1926 Spanish Colonial Revival building hosts the only Baptist church in the state led by a woman pastor. It is affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA and the Alliance of Baptists.



Designed by John Russell Pope before the architect designed the Jefferson Memorial and the National Gallery of Art, the sanctuary at the National City Christian Church in Washington, DC, serves as a center for national, religious and social justice gatherings.



Lovely Lane, designed by architect Stanford White in the Romanesque style, is the Mother Church of American Methodism. Today the church is focused on opening its doors to all kinds of community-based programs in its local Baltimore community.

Lovely Lane United Methodist Church, Baltimore; and the First Congregational Church, Sheridan, Wyo.

"All ten are extraordinary places, with important architecture and consequential outreach," said Bob Jaeger, president of Partners for Sacred Places. "Each project has been chosen because we believe they are poised for success and their projects will have a lasting impact on how these places serve their communities into the future. We look forward to working with each of them to preserve their buildings and make the most of them as assets for ministry and service."

Historic houses of worship contribute significant value to their communities. Sacred places function as hubs for social service programs, the arts and are vital to human belonging. Many of these aging and architecturally complex facilities require increasingly diverse streams of funding to be sustained as centers of community life in the Twenty-First Century. The National Fund for Sacred Places was born out of a belief that providing technical and financial support for congregations could build capacity and increase the stability of these critical yet disappear-

ing historic community centers.

The National Fund launched in 2016 with nearly \$14 million in grants from the Indiana-based Lilly Endowment. Since then, the National Fund has awarded millions of dollars in capital grants and other support to community-serving congregations across the country. A grantmaking and support program of Partners for Sacred Places in collaboration with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Fund administers monies through planning grants, training and technical assistance, coaching and capital grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$250,000. Through this partnership, the program was designed to award roughly 50 houses of worship a total of \$10 million over four years.

Now, with additional funding from the Lilly Endowment, Inc, totaling almost \$15 million, the National Fund is poised to continue providing grants to an additional 50 congregations from 2020 to 2023, and to expand its training and resources to impact more congregations than ever before. Additional support in 2019-20 has been provided by the Gerry Charitable Trust.

Partners for Sacred Places helps congregations and others with a stake in older religious properties make the most of them as civic assets in ways that benefit people of all faiths and of no faith. The organization is national, nonsectarian, and not-for-profit. The National Trust for Historic Preservation protects significant places representing our diverse cultural experience by taking direct action and inspiring broad public support.

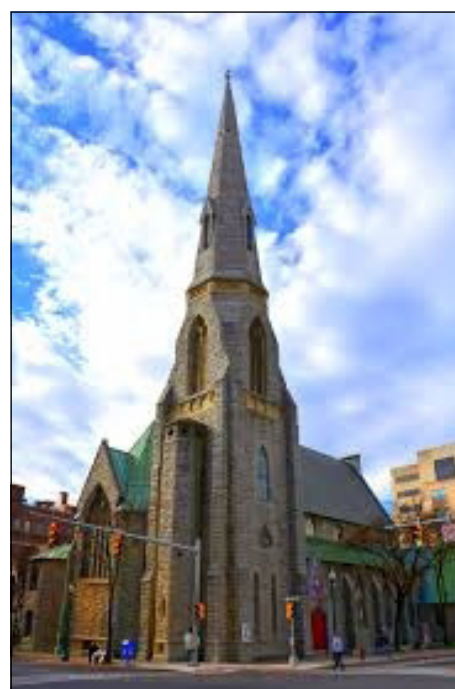
For information, www.fundforsacredspaces.org.



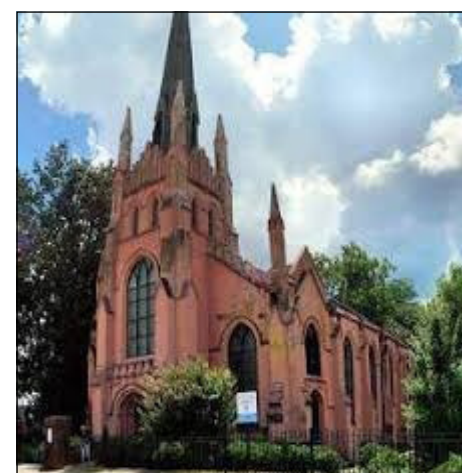
With murals by Frederic Clay Bartlett and windows by Tiffany Studios, the Second Presbyterian Church in Chicago hosts numerous hospitality services amid a treasure trove of decorative arts. —William Tyre photo



Focused on the welfare of homeless families and elderly populations, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission temple's design elements blend symbols of Buddhism's roots in India, adoption in Japan and future in the West.



The growth of St Paul's Episcopal Church paralleled the development of Syracuse from a canal-oriented outpost to an upstate urban center. South Sudanese refugee church members now count among those who use the space for community and religious activities. The parish is planning to repurpose underused space in its facility for mixed income housing units.



Prominently located on Abbeville's historic town square, Trinity Episcopal Church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The parish and its diocese are partnering with Preservation South Carolina to achieve major restoration projects at the site and manage the facility as a venue for religious and cultural activities.