Preserving and Strengthening the Cultural Heritage of Sacred Places in Central Appalachia is a program of national nonprofit Partners for Sacred Places to support the stewardship and preservation of historic sacred places throughout the region. Congregations and nonprofit organizations that own and care for a sacred place within the region are invited to apply to the program via the following link:

**Sacred Places in Central Appalachia Program Application**

ALL APPLICATIONS ARE DUE ON OCTOBER 9, 2023 BY 5:00PM EST

**Eligibility**

Congregations or organizations are invited to apply because they are stewards of significant historic sacred places (e.g. churches, temples, meetinghouses, etc.) that reflect Appalachian heritage reflected in folk arts and crafts and other historic elements of their buildings and property. While applicants will typically be active congregations, nonprofit organizations (e.g. “Friends’ Groups,” etc.) that own a historic sacred places may also apply. All applicants must be located within one of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) designated counties in West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina.

Participants will be selected based on the following criteria:

- A proposed capital project that will preserve, restore, or repair a significant example of arts and crafts and/or repair, preserve, or restore elements (including roofing, windows, etc.) of their historic church building.
- Demonstrated ability to and record of engaging the wider community
- Capacity to raise funds to match any grant awards towards your project

**Required Training**

Congregations or organizations accepted into the program will be required to attend in-person training, *New Dollars/New Partners for Your Historic Sacred Place*, which will be held in-person on November 10-11, 2023. Each sacred place accepted into the program will need to send a team of 2-3 leaders to attend the training on their behalf. Each team will receive a travel stipend to help defray any expenses for attending. Information about travel, accommodations, and other details related to attending the training will be provided upon acceptance into the program.

For more information about the program, please visit our [project website](http://www.sacredplaces.org).

For assistance or questions with the application, please reach out to Dr. Ted Olson, Project Coordinator, at toolson@sacredplaces.org