

2024 - 2025 Building Our Vision Annual Report

The current Building Our Vision Committee is made up of:

Ellen Fisher

Emma Rearick

Victoria Agnew

Jon Laselle

Frank Grossman

Bob Barry

Rev. Allison Palm

BOV has had a very busy year. During July we worked with The Architects and our construction manager Hutter to finalize all the plans and costs of the project. When all the numbers came together and prices on construction materials continuing to be high with supply chain problems from the pandemic it was realized that we would be short around \$400,000 in order to accomplish most of what we wanted to do with the visionary version of our vision. This included not doing the new vestibule for the entry coming off the Grove street parking lot, and not updating the windows in the Parish House and the White Wing building. In August the board received a donation with a challenge. The donor would pay for the windows in the Parish House and White Wing building if the church could raise the rest of the \$400,000 needed to bring together the entire vision of the project, minus the vestibule. This created the "Window of Opportunity" board challenge. The challenge was run in September and by October we had raised the money and signed the contract with Hutter to start construction.

Construction officially began in November and our regular BOV meetings switched over to weekly meetings on Thursdays with Hutter and The Architects. Rev. Allison and Frank have been the ones to attend these meetings on a regular basis with occasional, as needed, support from other members of the committee.

These meetings go over the details of the upcoming weeks of construction, and the problems that came up from the previous week. As well as going over change orders. Most changes had to do with details that were missed by one party or another in the plans, or changes due to the realities of working with an existing 200 year old building. And occasional additions by us, such as adding a drinking fountain. Most of the smaller decisions were handled by Rev. Allison and Frank during the meetings. With larger decisions we invited the entire BOV team to be involved.

In December the changes became more apparent as the two big trees in the front of the church came down. A lot of wood from the white oak has been saved and is in the process of being cut down to board for future use in the church. A big thank you to Rick Spitz and his son John for handling all the details with the wood. We also sawed off a large end piece of the tree, called a cookie, for us to use to show the history of the church over the years using the rings on the cookie. On the inside the chancel stage came down and the old boiler had been cut up and removed!

Though we needed to heat the Sanctuary and Parish House with a temporary unit for much of the winter, the new Parish House boiler was up and running by the end of February. The heat pump system for the Sanctuary is still in progress with LOTS of ductwork added throughout the sanctuary. This has been a very complicated process of adding 21st century technology into the confines of a 200 year old building.

Other major parts that have been completed are:

- Cement poured for the new entrances
- A large steel beam added under the balcony
- New narthex (lobby) has all been framed in
- The Sanctuary and Parish House are now insulated
- Lots of electrical wiring
- Windows for the Parish House have arrived
- Lighting fixtures have arrived
- Flooring options have been chosen
- The connector between the Sanctuary and Parish House has been framed
- With the help of Ellen Fisher and Carol Houde we have identified a landscaper for changes to the outside, and purchased a tree
- Steel for the new entries have started to be put in place

On the money side of things, we have kept pretty well on target. Although the change orders have used up the contingency fund on our side, there is still the contingency fund on the construction side and we have made some decisions that have been savings. We have also received approval for an energy efficiency incentive from Eversource of \$7,577.22. The details of the budget can be seen here:

Income	Projected	Actuals to date		
CC/Window of Opportunity	\$2,764,156.00	\$2,115,500.46		
Window Donation	\$303,000.00			
Interest	\$35,000.00	\$46,415.46		
Total Income	\$3,102,156.00	\$2,161,915.92		
Expenses				
Architect contract	\$187,500.00	\$175,620.00		
Construction contract	\$2,687,694.00	\$790,537.72		
Contingency	\$103,336.00	\$16,935.67	expected additional expenses:	\$65,752.14
Furnishings & Fixtures	\$83,626.00			
Breeze Fees	\$5,000.00			
Interest on Endowment Loan	\$35,000.00			
Total Expenses	\$3,102,156.00	\$983,093.39		
Difference		\$1,178,822.53		

As more of the project comes along so has the details of the schedule. We have started to think about the details we need to have in place for when the construction is done. We are in conversation with a carpenter about converting our old pulpit into a moveable pulpit with sit-stand capability, and thinking about new banners. We are currently putting together a small team of folks to make some of the final decisions about things like curtains and furniture. If you are interested in being a part of this, please talk with Rev. Allison - we would love to have you!

We have been told when we return to regular services in the fall, they will be in our new space!! In addition to making plans for everything we need to move back in, we are starting to think about how to celebrate and dedicate our new space.