

National Fund for Sacred Places

Intervention Fund

A program of Partners for Sacred Places in collaboration with the National Trust for Historic Preservation



The Intervention Fund is an emergency grant under the umbrella of the National Fund for Sacred Places. The Intervention Fund exists to support stewards of historic sacred places with building repair and recovery after an unanticipated emergency. The Intervention Fund is intended to be more flexible and fast-acting than an annual grant program. Congregations are only eligible to receive one Intervention Fund grant.

Eligible Emergencies

Projects will result from an unanticipated emergency situation, including:

EXTREME WEATHER: e.g., floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, and fires

PROPERTY DESTRUCTION: e.g., vandalism, theft, building fires, vehicles crashing into building

SUDDEN IDENTIFICATION OF URGENT SAFETY HAZARDS: e.g., those posing an immediate health and safety threat to building users or the public

Staff may consider other emergencies on a case-by-case basis.



Trinity UMC, Montpelier, VT. Photo courtesy of Trinity UMC.



First UMC Elgin, IL. Photo courtesy of Rev. Felicia LaBoy.

What We Fund

The Intervention Fund offers up to \$100,000 per congregation. No cash match is required. The Intervention Fund provides:

CAPITAL GRANTS: Physical repairs to the building that address direct damage or help facilitate full recovery.

PLANNING GRANTS: Architect fees, engineering studies, damage assessments, or other work to understand and prioritize repairs.

SHORT-TERM RESPONSE GRANTS: Temporary measures intended to respond to the eligible emergency, such as scaffolding, safety netting, and tarps.

Learn More Visit fundforsacredplaces.org and contact the Intervention Fund Director, Rachel Galton, at rgalton@sacredplaces.org.

Eligible Capital Projects

Building repairs that are critical for recovery, including in the following areas:

- Exterior
- Interior
- Roof/Gutters/Chimney
- Walls/Siding/Cladding
- Windows/Doors
- Foundation
- Steeple/Spire/Bell Tower
- Drainage/Sewer/Site
- ADA Accessibility
- Structural
- Water Infiltration Mitigation
- Masonry/Brick/Stone
- Stained Glass
- Restrooms
- Elevator/Lift/Ramp
- Hazardous Material Abatement
- Smoke and Soot Remediation

Repair or replacement of essential building systems, such as:

- Electricity
- Water/Plumbing
- Mechanical (HVAC)
- Boilers, Furnaces, and Radiators
- Fire Suppression

Ineligible Projects

- Demolition of character-defining architectural features
- Purchase or lease of property
- New construction
- Landscaping or fencing
- Cemeteries
- Parking lots
- Religious art restoration such as mural restoration
- Pipe organ restoration or replacement
- Purchase of audio-visual equipment
- Pew replacement
- Staff salaries or volunteer reimbursements
- Organizational overhead costs
- Catering or entertainment costs
- Historic structure reports or historic resource surveys
- Academic research
- Conferences and educational workshops
- Media and marketing
- Capital projects completed prior to approval into the program (defined as the date of written notification of acceptance)
- Mortgages or debt repayment

Second Baptist Church of Los Angeles, CA. Photo courtesy of Vivian Chan.



"The congregation and community immediately noticed the difference, as these windows had been covered with cardboard. There is a renewed spirit to work together for restoration and the revitalization of Second Baptist Church ... [and] to reimagine its programs to better suit the needs of the community."

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOS ANGELES

Core Criteria

The National Fund for Sacred Places core criteria are also used to evaluate Intervention Fund grant requests. These include:

- Historical, Cultural, or Architectural Significance
- Community-Serving Congregations
- Project Scope and Need
- Fundraising Readiness
- Healthy Congregations
- Strong Applications

More information is available about how these criteria are evaluated on the [National Fund for Sacred Places website](#). Please see the [Intervention Fund FAQs](#) for further information.

Project Examples

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOS ANGELES, CA

In the summer of 2021, the Los Angeles Police Department unsuccessfully attempted to detonate illegal fireworks in the heart of a residential neighborhood, resulting in a major explosion. The Second Baptist Church of Los Angeles, a prominent African American congregation located in the heart of South LA, sustained significant cracking of multiple original stained-glass windows. Further, as the windows awaited repairs, vandals added to the damage. Despite a \$21 million settlement paid to the community's victims, Second Baptist only received \$5,000. Given that repair costs were far greater, the Intervention Fund helped the church to restore the windows, revitalizing the spirit of the congregation and allowing the church to imagine future programs in the space.



Second Baptist Church of Los Angeles, CA. Photo courtesy of Vivian Chan.



South Bushwick Reformed Church, Brooklyn, NY. Photo courtesy of Jim Henderson.

SOUTH BUSHWICK REFORMED CHURCH, BROOKLYN, NY

In August 2020, Tropical Storm Isaias pushed the church spire askew, leading the NYC Department of Buildings to issue a violation and a \$6,250 fine. The spire had been damaged and repaired multiple times after hurricanes and tornadoes, but had a recurring lean that was intensified by severe winds. Even prior to the storm, the church had considered the drastic step of demolishing the steeple to prevent collapse, which would have raised legal concerns given its landmark status. An Intervention Fund grant of \$25,000 supported reinforcing and preserving this historic feature. The grant also helped an additional \$75,000 to be raised towards the first phase of the project. Since the repair, visitation to the building and community use for arts and music events have grown.

How to Apply

The Intervention Fund Director fields inquiries about the Fund. Only qualified applicants will be invited to apply. For more information, please contact the Intervention Fund Director, Rachel Galton, at rgalton@sacredplaces.org.