

Intervention Fund

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

The **Intervention Fund** supports stewards of historic sacred places with building repair and recovery after an unanticipated emergency. This emergency grant program, under the umbrella of the National Fund for Sacred Places, allows congregations to respond quickly and safely return to serving their communities.

Eligible Emergencies

EXTREME WEATHER: floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, and fires, etc.

PROPERTY DESTRUCTION: vandalism, theft, building fires, and vehicles crashing into building, etc.

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

Other emergencies are considered on a case-by-case basis.



Trinity UMC, Montpelier, VT. Photo: Trinity UMC.



First UMC Elgin, IL. Photo: Rev. Felicia LaBoy.

What We Fund

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

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

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

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

Core Criteria

Intervention Fund grant requests are evaluated based on the following criteria:

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

More information on these criteria is available in the [Intervention Fund FAQs](https://fundforsacredplaces.org) at fundforsacredplaces.org.

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. 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 plan future programs in the space.



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



South Bushwick Reformed Church, Brooklyn, NY. Photo: Jim Henderson.

SOUTH BUSHWICK REFORMED CHURCH, BROOKLYN, NY

In August 2020, Tropical Storm Isaias pushed the South Bushwick Reformed 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

For more information, please contact the Intervention Fund Director, Rachel Galton, at rgalton@sacredplaces.org.
Qualified applicants will be invited to apply.

