



**National Trust for
Historic Preservation**
Save the past. Enrich the future.

First Church in Jamaica Plain, Unitarian Universalist

6 Eliot Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

office@firstchurchjp.org
O: 617-524-1634

Form

Project Name*

Project refers to the specific activity for which NTPF funding is being requested, e.g., feasibility study, workshop, etc.

Historic Preservation Consultant

Brief Project Description*

You will complete a detailed project description later in the application. This field is intended to be an abbreviated summary of your project.

The First Church plans a major series of repairs to its historic building. We are committed to abiding by the principles of historic preservation and need support to retain a highly-qualified historic preservation consultant to guide the project.

Amount Requested*

Total amount requested from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

\$5,000.00

Project State

Massachusetts

Please read our guidelines and eligibility requirements before completing the application. If you have any questions while completing your application, contact our grants office at grants@savingplaces.org or 202-588-6277.

Please add administrator@grantinterface.com and grants@savingplaces.org to your address book to ensure you receive all email messages related to your grant application.

Applicant Information

Forum or Main Street Membership Number*

In response to coronavirus (COVID-19), we are temporarily waiving membership requirements for applicants. Grantees will be required to join upon notification of funding. Read more [here](#).

If you are a current member of the National Trust at the Forum or Main Street level and know your membership number, please write it below. If you are not a current member, please indicate that you will join if your request is funded by writing "will join" below. If you have questions about your membership status, please email members@savingplaces.org.

Will join.

Please answer the following questions about your organization.

Applicant's Tax Status*

Is the applicant a nonprofit organization or a public agency?

A nonprofit organization

If the applicant is a nonprofit

Has the organization been classified as a tax-exempt organization pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code?

Yes

IRS Letter of Determination

If you are a nonprofit, please upload your IRS letter of determination here.

MATaxExemptDocuments.pdf

If the applicant is not a 501(c)(3)

What is the organization's current tax status?

Mission Statement

Please include the organization's mission statement below.

Mission: We are an open and caring congregation. We nurture spiritual growth through worship, education, social justice, and service to others.

Vision: Our congregation is a source of sanctuary and inspiration. We embrace creativity, inclusiveness, and spiritual exploration. We share humane values and we work together to create a better world.

Previous National Trust Funding*

Has the applicant received National Trust financial assistance in the last two years?

No

Previous National Trust-Funded Projects

If the applicant has received National Trust financial assistance in the last two years, provide the name of the project and the year the grant was awarded.

Project Description

Estimated Project Start Date

For the June 1 deadline, projects may begin after the application is submitted and before notification of an award.

July 2021

Estimated Project End Date

June 2023

Project/Historic Resource Location*

If the project involves a historic resource, please include the address of the historic resource below. If the project does not include a historic resource, please include the city, state, and county where the project will occur.

The church is listed as the First Church of Jamaica Plain in the National and Massachusetts Registers of Historic Places: 6 Eliot Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

City/Town Population

Population of the city/town in which project will take place.

684,379

Historic Resource

If the project involves a historic resource (site, building, ship, etc.), please complete the following:

Name of Historic Resource/Site

First Church of Jamaica Plain

Date of Construction

When was the historic resource/site constructed?

1853

Site Significance and Current Use

Describe the project site, explain its significance (architectural/cultural/historical), and detail its current use.

The church stands at the historic, cultural, and civic center of Jamaica Plain. It began as the Congregational Society of the Third Parish of Roxbury in 1769 and is listed in the national and state Register of Historic Places. The current 1853 church was designed by architect Nathaniel Bradlee in the English Gothic Revival style. The 1889 parish hall and 1893 copper tower roof completed today's structure. An original Howard and Davis tower clock from 1853 faces the Soldiers' Monument (1871), framing the Jamaica Plain Monument Square Historic District. The sanctuary houses an E. and G.G. Hook pipe organ from the 1850's. Nobel Peace Prize laureate and congregant Emily Greene Balch credited the church's Rev. Dole for inspiring her work.

Our building helps our neighborhood provide for the hungry, educate our community about racism, empower children through the arts, facilitate AA meetings, give LGBTQ+ people social space, and address climate change. A congregant-run, grassroots food pantry serves 65 people twice-monthly. Our Social Justice Action Committee's Dismantling White Supremacy film series brought an average of 100 people together to watch and discuss 15 films about racism in the 2018-2019 church year. A community-based afterschool arts program has rented space since 1994 and operates year-round. AA meets weekly for a

nominal fee. Three LGBTQ+ social dance groups have met monthly at our hall since the late 80s. Climate Action 350MA has met in the church since 2016.

Is the property historically designated?

For example National Historic Landmark, National Register of Historic Places, state or local designation program, etc.

The church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a prominent element of the Monument Square National Register Historic District. It is also listed in the Massachusetts Register of Historic Places for the sanctuary and tower (<https://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?MhclId=BOS.8893>) as well as the parish hall (<https://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?MhclId=BOS.8894>).

Who is the owner of the property?

If applicant does not own the property, describe the owner's involvement with the project and use the file upload box below to upload a letter of consent from the owner.

NTHP Trust Support Letter.pdf

The church building is legally owned by the Trust for the First Congregational Society of Jamaica Plain (Unitarian), which was established by the church "to support public worship and religious instruction in the name of the Church and if possible at the Church building at the corner of Eliot and Centre Streets, Jamaica Plain."

Detailed Project Description

What activity will this grant support and what are the outcomes you plan to achieve? In your detailed project description, please address the following as they relate to your project:

- What is the project's purpose, schedule, and anticipated outcomes? How will you measure success?
- Describe any products that will result from the project.
- Describe the project's target audience and estimated attendance, if applicable.

Detailed Project Description*

The church is undertaking an ambitious program to restore its building to the point that it can be sustained with routine maintenance. An integral part of that program is performing these repairs according to the principles of historic preservation. Hiring Lynne Spencer with the support of this grant will ensure that we respect the historic features of our building as we strive to preserve our building into the 21st Century.

The church commissioned a survey in late 2020 to assess several building elements at the end of their useful life, which Ms. Spencer oversaw. We developed a prioritized program for restoration of the building's exterior with urgent, medium-term, and long-term repairs. The most urgent repairs needed in the next 3 years include fixing the tower masonry, reinforcing the sanctuary attic trusses, replacing the sanctuary's slate roof, and

replacing the parish hall flashings, gutters and flat seam copper roofing, for an estimated cost of around \$1,200,000. We have grant applications pending to support elements of the tower restoration and plan to apply for a major Community Preservation Act grant to support replacement of the sanctuary roof and repair of the parish hall roof.

The church hopes to begin work on restoring the tower masonry during the fall of 2021. This first phase of construction should be completed by the fall of 2022. Ms. Spencer would be advising the church and its architects as soon as the summer of 2021, as our architects finalize construction drawings for that phase of the project.

The church will be applying for another larger construction grant in the fall of 2021 to support replacement of the sanctuary roof and perhaps repair of the parish hall roof. That phase of the project would likely commence in the spring of 2022.

One lesson the church learned in a tower repair project in the 1990's is the importance of having expert advice on historic restoration when executing significant repairs to our building. Relying on guidance from a conventional architect, we used grouting to repair our tower's masonry that was not suitable for our historic structure. The material failed after 10 years. For these upcoming repairs, we are determined to retain a consultant who can ensure that our restoration program meets historic preservation principles and standards and will stand the test of time. We will measure the success of Ms. Spencer's work by assessing the fealty of our restoration work to the principles of historic preservation.

Lynne Spencer has overseen many important restoration projects across Massachusetts, and she has a deep appreciation for the historic features of our building. She advised the church on how to address the failed tower masonry problem and subsequent repairs to the tower roof, as well as numerous smaller repair projects in our building that required input on the historic accuracy of our plans. She also consulted on the survey of our building and helped develop a master plan for its maintenance once we have completed the needed restoration.

Future Plans*

Describe future plans for the project beyond the scope of this grant proposal (e.g., how consultant recommendations will be implemented, how education programs will be institutionalized, how publications will be distributed, etc.)

The church is at a crossroad. The survey of our building presented a daunting list of repairs and restoration projects and then a thoughtful program for on-going maintenance once the building is restored. We have a reliable source of income, from leasing our tower to a telecom company, which should adequately support the maintenance schedule once our building is restored.

But the church cannot overcome the hurdle of stabilizing and restoring our building on our own. If we can get support to restore our building to historic standards, we can maintain it as an integral element of the historic fabric of Jamaica Plain that is available for public use and serves as a resource for the community. If we cannot get support for historic restoration, our small congregation may not be able to maintain the church in its historic building. It would be incumbent upon the trustees to sustain the congregation in another setting, which could require the trust to sell the building to maximize financial return to the trust and church. We risk losing the building to the accelerating residential gentrification of our neighborhood.

This grant will support the church in its effort to keep its building a vibrant location for community gatherings and worship and will help the church get the guidance it needs to ensure that its restoration program will maintain the building's historic integrity.

Consultants and Partners

Will a member of your staff complete the work outline in this application?*

If yes, list their information in the following questions.

No

Has the consultant or staff member been selected?*

Yes

Consultant or staff member name/firm (if they have been chosen)

Lynne Spencer, Principal Preservationist

Consultant or staff member's e-mail address

lspencer@ssvarchitects.com

Consultant or staff member's contact information

Please provide a website address or use the file upload box to attach the chosen consultant's resume.

(Maximum 2 pages)

L Spencer Resume.pdf
Spencer, Sullivan & Vogt Architects, Inc.
1 Thompson Square | Suite 504
Charlestown, MA 02129
(617) 861-4291
www.SSVarchitects.com
lspencer@ssvarchitects.com

Does the project involve any outside partners?

If yes, please describe the role that partner organizations will play in this project.

Personnel

Board Members

If the organization is a nonprofit, please upload a list of current board members.

First Church Standing Comm.docx

Personnel Administering Project

Please upload a resume of the personnel that will be administering the project. (Maximum 2 pages)

TLW Resume May 2021.NTHP.docx

Project Budget

The project budget pertains to the proposed NTPF grant-funded activity only. Please be sure the budget balances--the total income amount must equal the total expense amount. Please fill out the budget sheet available for download and upload the completed form as requested.

Total Project Income

Please list your total project income here.

\$14,000.00

Total Project Expenses

Please list your total project expenses here.

\$14,000.00

Expenses*

How were the project expenses determined? Do you have proposals with cost estimates for this work or are they your own projections?

We estimated Ms. Spencer's services to be approximately 10% of the total of \$140,000 in architect, engineering and consulting fees we have budgeted to execute a set of urgent repairs with a total construction cost currently estimated at about \$1,060,000.

Budget*

Please upload your completed budget sheet. You can download a blank budget sheet here. Please be sure to note if sources of income are secured, anticipated, or in-kind in the appropriate column.

In-kind matches are defined as non-cash contributions, such as donated materials or services.

PLEASE NOTE: You must use the budget template linked to above.

1stChurch-NTHP-Grants-Budget_covid19 (1).xlsx

Photos

Please upload up to four photos of your project below. JPEG format is preferable. Both historic and high quality contemporary images will be accepted. Photos must include at least one exterior view of the property or resource that is the focus of your grant request. Most images should be in a horizontal format.

PLEASE NOTE: WE RECOMMEND YOU SAVE A DRAFT OF YOUR APPLICATION BEFORE YOU UPLOAD PHOTOS. Click the "save as draft" button at the bottom of this page to save.

Photo 1

FirstChurch-SanctuaryExterior.jpg

Photo 2

FirstChurch-SanctuaryInterior.jpg

Photo 3

FirstChurch-ParishHallExterior.jpg

Photo 4

FirstChurch-ParishHallInterior.jpg

Photo Credits

Please upload a Word document with date, photo credit, and a brief description (one sentence) for each image. Make sure it is clear what information corresponds with what photo.

Photograph Credits for 1st Church in JP.docx

Letters of Endorsement (Optional)

Upload up to three letters of endorsement that express support for the project and/or your organization's ability to carry out the project. Letters of endorsement can be addressed to:

Ms. Nicky Vann
Director, Grants and Awards Programs
National Trust for Historic Preservation
2600 Virginia Ave., NW Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20037

Letter of Endorsement 1

Boston Landmarks Comm First Church, JP National Trust 2021.pdf

Letter of Endorsement 2

JP Historical Soc First Church support letter May 2021.pdf

Letter of Endorsement 3

NTHP Food Bank Support Letter.pdf

Certification

Provide the name and title of the authorized official submitting this application for a National Trust Preservation Fund grant. The authorized official must be a representative of the applicant organization who has the authority to sign legally binding documents on behalf of the organization e.g., an executive board officer (i.e. President) or an executive staff member with signatory authority (i.e. Executive Director or CFO).

By entering in their name below, the authorized official gives the National Trust for Historic Preservation the absolute and unqualified right to use in whole or in part, in whatever manner the National Trust may desire, including (but not limited to) use for publicity, audio-visual presentation, and/or promotion, all photographs, video, and other materials submitted as part of this grant application, and certifies that the information contained in this application is true and correct to the best of their knowledge.

Applicant Certification*

Are you a duly authorized representative of the applicant?

Yes

Name*

Timothy Williamson

Title*

Trustee

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- MATaxExemptDocuments.pdf
- NTHP Trust Support Letter.pdf
- L Spencer Resume.pdf
- First Church Standing Comm.docx
- TLW Resume May 2021.NTHP.docx
- 1stChurch-NTHP-Grants-Budget_covid19 (1).xlsx
- FirstChurch-SanctuaryExterior.jpg
- FirstChurch-SanctuaryInterior.jpg
- FirstChurch-ParishHallExterior.jpg
- FirstChurch-ParishHallInterior.jpg
- Photograph Credits for 1st Church in JP.docx
- Boston Landmarks Comm First Church, JP National Trust 2021.pdf
- JP Historical Soc First Church support letter May 2021.pdf
- NTHP Food Bank Support Letter.pdf



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
 PO BOX 7010
 BOSTON, MA 02204



403C
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY OF
JAMAICA PLAIN
6 ELIOT ST
JAMAICA PLAIN MA 02130-2707

Notice Date: 10/09/14
Taxpayer ID Number: 042 108 358

042108358

Dear Taxpayer,

Below please find your Certificate of Exemption (Form ST-2). Please cut along the dotted line and display at your place of business.

Sincerely,

Massachusetts Dept. of Revenue



Form ST-2
Certificate of Exemption

Massachusetts
Department of
Revenue

Certification is hereby made that the organization herein is an exempt purchaser under General Laws, Chapter 64H, section 6(d) or (e). All purchases of tangible personal property by this organization are exempt from taxation under said chapter to the extent that such property is used in the conduct of the business of the purchaser. Any abuse or misuse of this certificate by any tax-exempt organization or any unauthorized use of this certificate by any individual constitutes a serious violation and will lead to revocation. Willful misuse of this Certification of Exemption is subject to criminal sanctions of up to one year in prison and \$10,000 (\$50,000 for corporations) in fines.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY OF
JAMAICA PLAIN
6 ELIOT ST
JAMAICA PLAIN MA 02130

EXEMPTION NUMBER
042 108 358
ISSUE DATE
10/24/14
CERTIFICATE EXPIRES ON
10/24/24

NOT ASSIGNABLE OR TRANSFERABLE

COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE

ST-2

Massachusetts Department Of Revenue



200 Arlington Street PO Box 7010 Chelsea, MA 02150-7010

ALAN LeBOVIDGE, COMMISSIONER
LAURIE MCGRATH, ACTING DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY OF
JAMAICA PLAIN
PO BOX 186
JAMAICA PLAIN, MA 02130

870

I Notice 30048
Exemption Number 042 108358

Date 09/14/04
Bureau TSD MGT SERV
Phone (617)887-6367

Dear Taxpayer,

A review of our records indicates that the Massachusetts sales/use tax exemption for FIRST CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY OF JAMAICA PLAIN, a tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) organization, will expire on 10/24/04.

The Department of Revenue is issuing this notice in lieu of a new Form St-2, "Certificate of Exemption". The notice verifies that the Massachusetts Department of Revenue has renewed the sales/use tax exemption for FIRST CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY OF JAMAICA PLAIN subject to the conditions stated in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 64H, sections 6(d) or (e), as applicable.

The organization remains responsible for maintaining its exempt status and for reporting any loss or change of its status to the Department of Revenue. Absent the Department of Revenue's receipt of information from the taxpayer by the expiration date of the current certificate that the entity no longer holds exempt status under the above provisions, the taxpayer's certificate is renewed. This renewal will expire on 10/24/14.

The taxpayer's existing Form ST-2, in combination with this renewal notice may be presented as evidence of the entity's continuing exempt status. Provided that this requirement is met, all purchases of tangible personal property by the taxpayer are exempt from sales/use taxation under Chapter 64H or I respectively, to the extent that such property is used in the conduct of the purchaser's business.

Any abuse or misuse of this notice by any tax-exempt organization or any unauthorized use by any individual constitutes a serious violation and will lead to revocation. Willful misuse of this notice is subject to criminal sanctions of up to one year in prison and \$10,000 in fines (\$50,000 for corporations).

This notice may be reproduced.

Sincerely,

Alan LeBovidge
Commissioner of Revenue

First Church in Jamaica Plain, Unitarian Universalist
October 15, 2008

6 Eliot Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

May 13, 2021

Ms. Nicky Vann
Director, Grants and Awards Programs
National Trust for Historic Preservation
2600 Virginia Ave., NW Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20037

Re: First Church in Jamaica Plain, Unitarian Universalist

Dear Ms. Vann:

I am writing to confirm that the Trust for The First Congregational Society of Jamaica Plain (Unitarian) supports and joins in the application by the First Church in Jamaica Plain, Unitarian Universalist for a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. I am the Chair of the Board of Trustees, and by a vote on March 1, 2021, the trustees authorized me to execute any documents necessary to support the Church's current efforts to restore our building, including this letter.

Unitarian Universalist churches operate according to congregational polity, but that creates a risk. In 1973, the Church's congregation was exceedingly small and was concerned about how to maintain the Church's mission in the community as a Unitarian Universalist congregation. Some other churches had seen their building and endowment taken over by new members who voted to take their congregations out of the Unitarian Universalist tradition. To forefend against this possibility, the Church placed its building and endowment in a trust dedicated to supporting the mission of the Church and its building.

While the Trust is a legally separate entity from the Church, all the trustees are Church members, and the trustees work very closely with the Church leadership. The Trust has been deeply involved in the Church's program to restore our historic building and has funded initial steps in that process.

Accordingly, the Trust fully supports this application and hopes you will support our efforts to retain a historic preservation consultant to ensure our renovations are conducted according to the principles of historic preservation.

Sincerely,



Geraldine Culver, Chair
Trust for The First Congregational Society of Jamaica Plain (Unitarian)



EDUCATION

Keuka College, Keuka Park, NY
Bachelor of Arts

AWARDS

William D. Smith Awards for Accessibility
Old North Church, Boston
Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton
North Parish, North Andover
Vilna Shul Building Community Award
2018
Preservation Massachusetts Awards
for Individ. Excellence, 2014 and 2010
for Campus Commitment, Wellesley College

AFFILIATIONS

Association for Preservation Technology
Boston Society of Architects
Colonial Society of Massachusetts
Historic Boston, Inc.
Massachusetts Historical Society
Nahant Community
Preservation Committee
Nahant Historical Commission
New England Museum Association
Wakefield Charitable Trust
Longfellow's Wayside Inn

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Spencer & Vogt Group
Menders, Torrey & Spencer
L. V. Mawn Construction Corp.
Historic New England

Lynne Spencer has a long and distinguished tenure in the field of historic preservation. She began her career at Historic New England, where she held a series of positions including Director of Properties, a role with responsibility for 120 buildings and 50 historic sites. Lynne worked as project manager for L.V. Mawn Construction, was a consultant for the Massachusetts Historical Commission, and served as state director of the Smithsonian Institute's "Save Outdoor Sculpture" initiative. She has directed the preservation and rehabilitation of numerous buildings of national significance.

KEY PROJECTS

Oakes Ames Memorial Hall, North Easton, MA: Conditions assessment, master plan, and phased restoration of H. H. Richardson-designed building.

Frederic C. Adams Heritage Center, Kingston, MA: Rehabilitation of Colonial Revival era library as a community center, including elevator addition and climate controlled collections storage.

The Prescott Building, Lancaster, MA: Conditions assessment, reuse feasibility study, and rehabilitation of 1904 school for town offices.

Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA: Envelope assessment and restoration construction program for seven campus buildings.

Fairhaven High School: Conditions assessment, preservation plan, and phased restoration of Charles Brigham-designed school.

Fall River Water Works: Conditions assessment, reuse feasibility study, and phased restoration of 19th century water works complex.

MIT, Cambridge, MA: Projects at multiple buildings including envelope assessments, interior renovations, and rehabilitation of a warehouse to house the Dept. of Planning and Facilities.

Church of the Covenant, Boston, MA: Historic structure report, National Historic Landmark nomination, phased restoration and renovation of Richard M. Upjohn-designed church.

Nahant Life Saving Station: Restoration and rehabilitation of 19th-century station as a community center and leased office space.

Ames Chapel, Hingham, MA: Conditions assessment, reuse feasibility study, phased restoration, and rehabilitation as a community venue.

First Church of Christ Unitarian, Lancaster, MA: Historic structure report and phased restoration of 1816 Charles Bulfinch-designed church.

The Buckman Tavern, Lexington, MA: Historic structure report, feasibility study, restoration and renovation of ca. 1720 landmark.



**First Church in Jamaica Plain, Unitarian Universalist
Standing Committee Members, as of May 9, 2021**

Persis Yu, Co-Chair, Boston, MA

Joy Falk, Co-Chair, Mattapan, MA

Jack Wellman, Treasurer, Jamaica Plain, MA

Minda Sanchez Jariwala, Clerk, Jamaica Plain, MA

John Clardy, Standing Committee Member, Jamaica Plain, MA

John Eckelman, Standing Committee Member, Jamaica Plain, MA

Dennis O'Brien, Standing Committee Member, Roslindale, MA

Stephen Toropov, Standing Committee Member, Boston, MA

Shared Service Center and implemented extensive reassignment of work across the office to better support Region's needs. Organized Leadership Team retreats on diversity in the workplace and teamwork.

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region I
Acting Chief of Air Quality Planning Unit**

**February – June 2004
Boston, MA**

Supervised multi-disciplinary staff of 12 ranging from environmental engineers to meteorologists. Managed two major projects to "roll out" newly promulgated CAA regulations to achieve maximum visibility.

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Senior Policy Analyst**

**April 1991 - January 1993
Washington, D.C.**

Negotiated Clean Air Act operating permit regulations with Office of Management and Budget, White House Counsel's office, Vice-President's Council on Competitiveness, and state and local governments.

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region I
Assistant Regional Counsel**

**July 1985 – January 2011
Boston, MA**

Served as senior staff attorney handling enforcement cases and regulatory development under the Clean Air Act. Developed and helped litigate the U.S. v General Motors case in which the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously upheld EPA's authority to enforce state implementation plans. Negotiated several of the largest penalties EPA Region I had collected under the Act.

**Palmer & Dodge
Associate Attorney**

**September 1983 - July 1985
Boston, MA**

Negotiated and drafted commercial lending agreements and industrial development bonds. Counseled municipalities and public authorities in public bidding requirements and procurement regulations.

**Greater Boston Elderly Legal Services
Attorney**

**January - April 1985
Boston, MA**

Defended indigent tenants facing eviction proceedings in Boston Housing Court. Won three of my four trials.

EDUCATION

**University of Michigan Law School
Ann Arbor, MI**

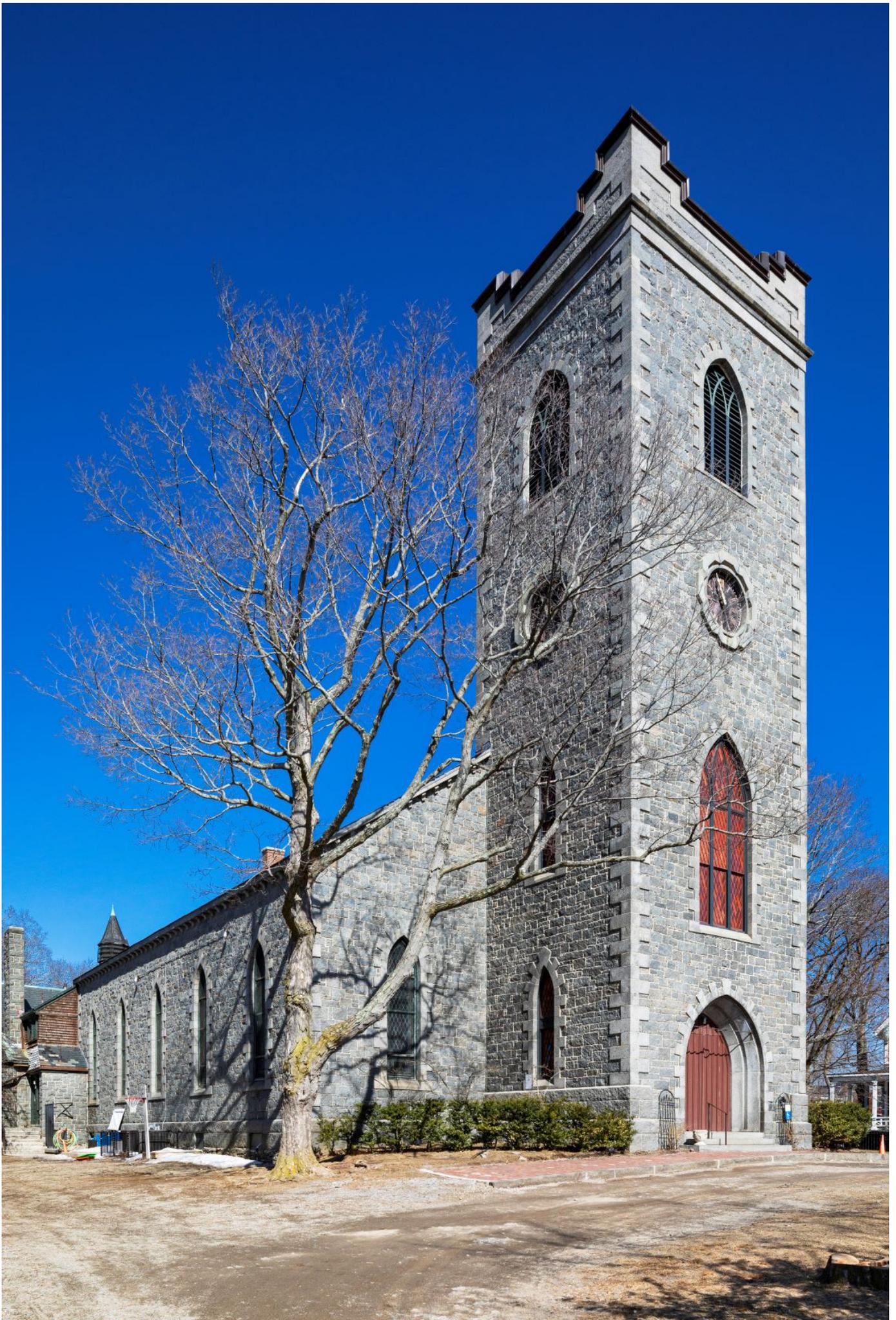
**J.D. Cum Laude
May 1983**

Awarded the Bates Scholarship, the highest honor the Law School gives graduates, and the Mixer Award for Social Justice for successfully negotiating with the Law School and University Administrations to broaden nondiscrimination policies to include sexual orientation.

**Amherst College
Amherst, MA**

**B.A. German language and literature
May 1979**

Awarded Magna Cum Laude degree and Phi Beta Kappa.









**Photograph Credits for
First Church in Jamaica Plain, Unitarian Universalist**

All four of these photographs were taken by Gregory Premru on March 3, 2021.

Photograph 1: Exterior of the church sanctuary and tower from the front of the church.

Photograph 2: Interior of the church sanctuary facing the alter.

Photograph 3: Exterior of the church parish hall from the rear in the church's Revolutionary War era graveyard.

Photograph 4: Interior of the church parish hall facing the stage.



City of Boston
Environment



City of Boston
Mayor Kim Janey

May 10, 2021

Ms. Nicky Vann
Director, Grants and Awards Programs
National Trust for Historic Preservation
2600 Virginia Ave., NW Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20037

Re: First Church in Jamaica Plain, Unitarian Universalist

Dear Ms. Vann:

The Boston Landmarks Commission (BLC) is pleased to support the application from the First Church in Jamaica Plain, Unitarian Universalist (First Church) for a matching grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The First Church is an important landmark in the City of Boston, and its presence enriches the sense of history in its neighborhood.

First Church began as the Congregational Society of the Third Parish of Roxbury in 1769. The second and current church building was completed in 1853, designed by architect Nathaniel Bradlee, in the English Gothic Revival style. In 1889 the parish hall was built, and in 1893 the copper roof of the church tower was added, completing the structure we see today. First Church stands at the historic, cultural, and civic center of Jamaica Plain. Its impressive tower faces the Soldiers' Monument (1871), from which the historic district takes its name that also includes the Loring-Greenough House, Curtis Hall, Sedgwick Library, Eliot School, and the Footlight Club.

First Church is an important asset for the community. It hosts Open Studio exhibitions each fall, crafts fairs for local artisans during the holidays and in the spring, and numerous concerts and community meetings addressing numerous subjects such as community concerns, social issues. The Jamaica Plain Forum held a regular series of important lectures there for years prior to the pandemic. Multiple clubs and associations as well as public renters use its meeting space in the parish hall, as shown in the attached list of building users. The Church operates a regular food pantry that has become especially critical during the pandemic. KidsArts, a vibrant multicultural afterschool arts enrichment program for children, meets in the parish hall when public health conditions allow, and the program still uses the church for its administrative office space.

First Church has worked consistently over the years to be a good steward of its building. It has previously been awarded grants from the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Henderson Foundation and raised the necessary matching funds to restore various elements of the tower and the parish hall and to make the church accessible to the entire community with a ramp and accessible first floor bathroom.

But more work needs to be done. A recent Church-funded Exterior Envelope Conditions Assessment and Master Plan of the building has determined that the Church needs a series of repairs in a program that will extend over ten years. Most immediately, the Church must stabilize the masonry of its impressive tower and replace the roof of its sanctuary. The church is striving to execute this program consistent with the principles of historic preservation and has started working with a well-regarded historic preservation specialist, Lynne Spencer, to guide their work.

CITY of BOSTON

1 CITY HALL SQUARE BOSTON, MA 02201-2021 | ROOM 709 | 617-635-3850 | ENVIRONMENT@BOSTON.GOV

The Boston Landmarks Commission applauds the Church for its commitment to historic preservation, and urges you to support the funding for the Church. This project will help preserve the Church as a prominent feature of the Monument Square Historic District, and it will support the First Church's important work in its community.

Best Regards,



Kathleen von Jena
Assistant Survey Director
Boston Landmarks Commission



Jamaica Plain Historical Society
P.O. Box 302924
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130-0053
www.jphs.org

Ms. Nicky Vann
Director, Grants and Awards Programs
National Trust for Historic Preservation
2600 Virginia Ave., NW Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20037

May 8, 2021

Dear Ms. Vann:

The JP Historical Society is pleased to support the application from the First Church in Jamaica Plain, Unitarian Universalist (First Church) for a matching grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The First Church is an important part of the fabric of our community and has played a crucial part in the history of Jamaica Plain.

The Jamaica Plain Historical was founded in 1987 to preserve and promote the rich history of the Jamaica Plain neighborhood of Boston. We are a strong neighborhood advocate for the preservation of JP's historic buildings and a long-term organizational member of the Boston Preservation Alliance. JP is lucky to have many cultural assets and the First Church is a highlight on our Monument Square walking tour, which has been given free to the public every summer since 1995.

First Church began as the Congregational Society of the Third Parish of Roxbury in 1769. The current church building (the parish's second) was completed in 1853. It was designed by prominent architect Nathaniel Bradlee in the Gothic Revival style. In 1889 the Parish Hall was constructed. Then in 1893 the original cupola was removed and the copper roof of the church tower was added, completing the structure we see today. First Church stands at the historic, cultural, and civic center of Jamaica Plain. Its impressive tower faces the Soldiers' Monument (1871), from which the national historic district takes its name. This district includes other important historic structures including: the Loring Greenough House, Curtis Hall, the Jamaica Plain Branch of the Boston Public Library, the Eliot School, and the Footlight Club.

First Church continues to function as an important asset for the JP community. It hosts JP Open Studio vendors each fall, crafts fairs for local artisans during the holidays and in the spring. In addition, numerous concerts and community meetings are held in the Parish Hall annually. The JP Historical Society uses this space for lectures with some frequency. Recent JPHS events held at the First Church have included a talk on Nobel Prize Winner Emily Greene Balch on the 150th anniversary of her birth in 2017 and a talk by the First Church Historian in 2019 to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the congregation. The First Church operates a regular food pantry that has become especially critical during the pandemic. KidsArts, a vibrant multicultural after school arts enrichment program for children, meets in the parish hall when public health conditions allow, and the program still uses the church for its administrative office space.

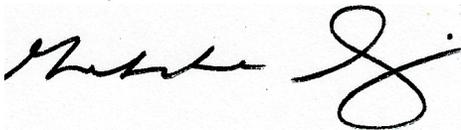
First Church has worked consistently over the years to be a good steward of its building. It has previously been awarded grants from the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Henderson Foundation. Then raised the necessary matching funds to restore various elements of the tower and the parish hall. Additional work has been done to make the church accessible to the entire community with a ramp and accessible first floor bathroom. These changes have been much appreciated by the attendees at recent JPHS lectures in the Parish Hall.

But more work needs to be done. A recent Church-funded Exterior Envelope Conditions Assessment and Master Plan of the building has determined that the church tower walls critically need stabilizing, the sanctuary roof needs replacing, masonry needs to be restored, leaded-glass windows need replacing, and the parish hall roof needs extensive repairs. The Church is working hard to restore its building to a point that routine maintenance will preserve it into the future. But it needs substantial support to reach that point.

As part of that project, the Church plans to retain a noted historical preservation specialist, Lynne Spencer, to help guide the Church's overall strategy to bring the building to the point that the congregation can maintain it. This grant would support her guidance on the important project the Church is undertaking to maintain the historic integrity of the building while making it viable for 21st century use.

This project is essential to preserving the First Church as a visual and cultural anchor for the Monument Square Historic District and a powerful symbol of the First Church's good work in the community. Please support the Church's determination to implement this restoration project with the support of a highly-qualified historic preservation consultant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gretchen Grozier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "G" that loops back under the name.

Gretchen Grozier, President

Ms. Nicky Vann
Director, Grants and Awards Programs
National Trust for Historic Preservation
2600 Virginia Ave., NW Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20037

Re: First Church in Jamaica Plain, Unitarian Universalist

Dear Ms. Vann:

I am the coordinator of the Jamaica Plain Food Pantry, and I am writing to support the application from the First Church in Jamaica Plain, Unitarian Universalist (First Church) for a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The First Church's building is a critical resource for our community generally, and it is the essential hub for the Food Panty as we serve the nutritional needs of our neighborhood.

The Food Pantry was founded to serve the needs of those on the margins of our community. We serve all in need, without regard to status, or requiring ID or statement of need. Serving 50-65 clients, with a staff of 10-15 volunteers, we filled an empty niche in the food security of this area. Sadly, at the outbreak of the pandemic, we found it necessary to cease operations in the interest of public safety. Instead, we have worked with the First Church to convert the currently unused sanctuary into a food distribution center, which now sends food out to over 300 families each week. The church has been a strong supporter of this community outreach, and we could not possibly do the work we do without that commitment.

First Church has worked consistently over the years to take care of its building. It has previously been awarded grants from the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Henderson Foundation and raised the necessary matching funds to restore various elements of the tower and the parish hall and to make the church accessible to the entire community with a ramp and two accessible first floor bathrooms.

The Church recently conducted an Exterior Envelope Conditions Assessment and Master Plan for its building. The stained-glass expert SSV retained determined that three tall leaded glass windows in the church's sanctuary need to be rebuilt and the sanctuary roof needs replacement. This work is essential not only to maintain the beauty of the sanctuary as you view it from the street and stand within it, but it is also critical to protecting the sanctuary space from the elements. We currently store thousands of pounds of food in the sanctuary, and the integrity of that space is essential to supporting our work in the community. Even in "normal" times, the Food Pantry stores some food stuffs in the sanctuary, in the side pews, which are most at risk if the sanctuary windows and roof are not secure.

While the functionality of the sanctuary is a critical focus for the work of the Food Pantry, I also support the need to have all this work done according to the highest standards of historic preservation. To that end, the Church has worked with Lynne Spencer, a historic preservation specialist, to guide this project, and the Church hopes to continue to retain her with your support.

This project will preserve the beauty of the Church's sanctuary, and it will protect the functionality of the sanctuary as a critical facility for our work to meet the nutritional needs of

our community. I urge you to approve the First Church's grant application to help ensure this work is done with full attention to the principles of historic preservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dennis O'Brien". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Dennis O'Brien
Jamaica Plain Food Pantry Coordinator