

A low-angle photograph of a red brick building with a white cornice and a stained glass window. The sky is clear blue. The text is overlaid on the image.

**LOOKING UP:  
BUILDING OUR VISION**  
Renovation and Restoration Project

Unitarian Universalist Church  
Belfast, Maine  
2016



## **Building Our Vision**

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The Unitarian Universalist Church of Belfast has grown and strengthened enormously since it was founded just 21 years ago. Today it is an active progressive church with a downtown Belfast building and a multi-generational congregation. It offers its members and friends myriad opportunities for spiritual reflection and exploration, meaningful connections, nurturing children and empowering youth, practicing social justice and environmentalism, and providing service to the larger community. Yet UUCB's 157-year-old building does not provide sufficient, accessible, and safe facilities for all it does.

The \$700,000 "Looking Up: Building Our Vision" Capital Campaign will allow UUCB to create a much-improved physical environment to better serve current and future needs. The project will reclaim, expand, and update the church building's original second-floor sanctuary, closed off since 1931, and reconfigure the first floor to provide ample and flexible classroom and meeting spaces. The expanded and renovated church building will be welcoming, accessible, and accommodating. It will enable the fulfillment of the shared vision we have developed together over the years.

## **What UUCB Does**

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UUCB welcomes members, friends, and the larger community who seek spirituality, connection, and community. Worship services led by Rev. Deane Perkins and speakers from inside and outside the church community, congregational conversations, and discussion groups on such topics as non-violent communication, aging, and ethical decision making deepen and broaden spiritual exploration. Music is an important part of our worship. Sunday classes, activities, retreats, and community service projects engage children, youth, and families. Game nights, music, cooking classes and other social activities bring people of all ages together.

Recognizing our strong commitment to peace, social justice, and sustainability, UUCB has been instrumental in the development and success of the Restorative Justice Project and the Window Dressers home weatherization project. Volunteers assist the local Food Pantry and organize the annual Winter Solstice Celebration, which raises funds to support organizations that serve local people in need. UUCB's weekly "Shared Plate" Sunday offerings benefit 11 such organizations each year. Our Caring Circle reaches out to our members and friends suffering illness, loss, or hardship.

### **Mission Statement**

*We are a vibrant, inter-generational faith community, inspired by thought and spirit and grounded in love. Our mission is to honor differences and to foster peace, justice, and sustainability in ourselves and in our world.*

--Adopted October 3, 2013



UUCB is a Unitarian Universalist Association LGBT Welcoming Congregation and a Green Sanctuary committed to environmentalism, and we are working to become a Peace Advocacy Congregation.

We make our building available at no cost to the Waldo County Peace and Justice Committee, 12-step programs, Restorative Justice Project, the LGBTQ Drop By for Youth, and other non-profit groups and at modest rental rates to other organizations. Rental spaces are very limited in Belfast, so UUCB is a venue for theatre and music, community dinners, and meetings, despite its space and amenities limitations.



## **The Project**

UUCB has clearly outgrown its present facilities, which have space and privacy limitations, ADA accessibility barriers, inadequate light and sound systems in the sanctuary, insufficient storage, safety concerns, and environmental challenges. The Space Needs Committee, with much input from the congregation, has considered possibilities for facility expansion and improvements and consulted with architects and a structural engineer. On November 15, 2015, UUCB members voted overwhelmingly to proceed with the renovation and expansion project with the goal of raising \$700,000 for the first phase of construction (see page 6).

Rehabilitating the original church sanctuary, reconfiguring the first floor, and updating systems will create more and much improved space for worship, RE activities, programs and performances, socializing, meetings, and staff offices.



## Project Highlights

**A BEAUTIFUL SANCTUARY.** The renovated and restored original sanctuary will accommodate more than 200 people. A moving partition will enable the space to be divided for a lobby and hospitality area or other purposes. There will be ample storage space. Historical features, such as the pressed tin ceiling and colored windows, will be retained and integrated into the new design. An elevator will make the second floor fully accessible. An updated sound system and good acoustics and lighting will be installed.

**SPACE FOR STAFF, MEETINGS AND RE FOR ALL AGES.**

The kitchen, offices for the minister and other staff, four classrooms, and flexible meeting rooms will occupy the first floor. All will be accessible, bright, safe, and comfortable. Spaces will no longer need to be divided or shared, and more privacy will be possible.

**A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL** Mold and moisture problems in the basement will be addressed. Insulation will be improved. Environmental upgrades and efficiencies will ensure that the building can be sustainably maintained for generations to come. Green building practices will be emphasized.

**A MULTI-PURPOSE COMMUNITY RESOURCE.** A stage in the sanctuary, flexibly configured meeting rooms, and full ADA accessibility will enable UUCB to offer attractive facilities to groups and audiences of many sizes from the local community.

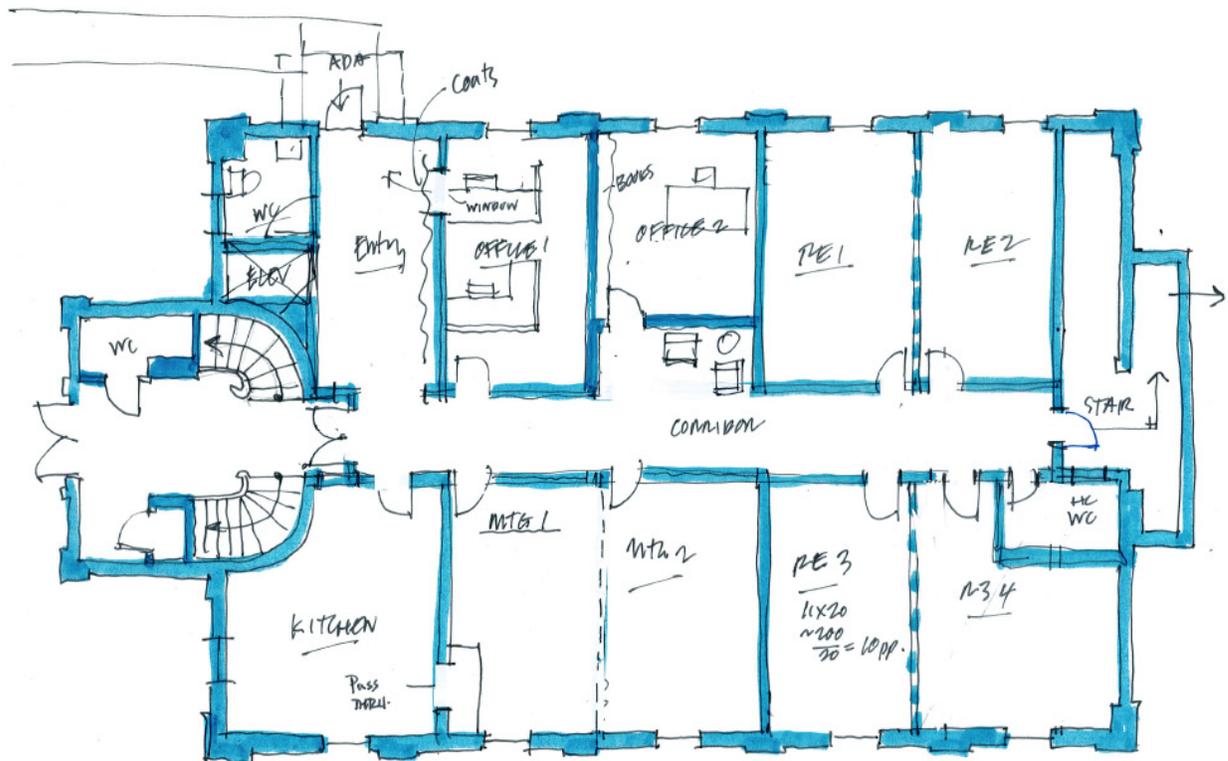
Renovations will begin in summer 2016.



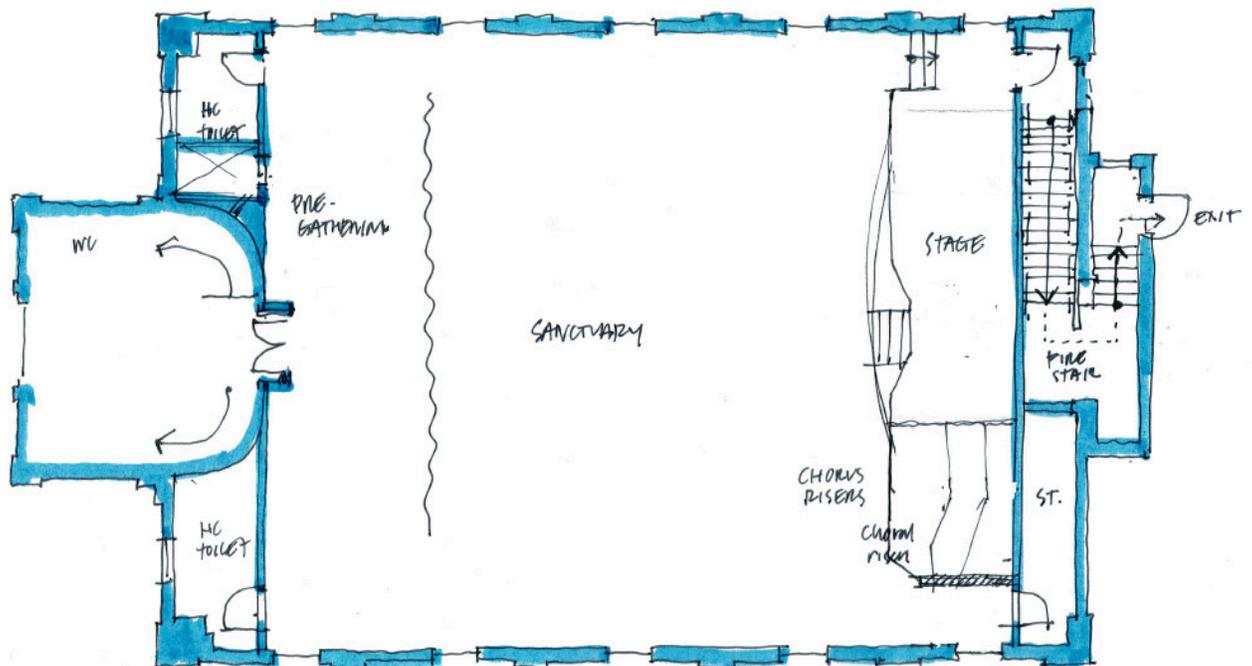
*A conceptual rendition of the reclaimed and renovated second floor sanctuary, with restored tin ceiling and colored glass windows. Good light and acoustics will be priorities, making the space ideal for many UUCB and community uses.*



## Conceptual Drawings



**FIRST FLOOR** early conceptual plan show a kitchen, offices for the minister and other staff, four classrooms, and flexible meeting rooms. The final layout may include wider hallways.



**SECOND FLOOR** early conceptual plan shows a renovated and restored sanctuary that can seat more than 200 people and will be appropriate for a variety of uses, restrooms, and an elevator.

## Project Costs

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### Preliminary Cost Estimate\*

Construction Task	Unfinished Building	Additional for Completed Building
Demolition	30,000	
Rebuild floors & walls, including interior doors	221,000	
Insulation - ceiling & walls	30,000	
Kitchen - remove & reinstall cabinets & counters	10,000	
Elevator	60,000	
Exterior - rebuild handicap ramp	10,000	
Sprinkler System	65,000	
Electrical & Plumbing	40,000	
Heating & Basement Repair and Ventilation	65,000	
Sound & Video System	25,000	
Kitchen - stove, fire protection hood & vent		30,000
Finishes - walls, ceilings, paint, floor coverings		60,000
Finishes - sanctuary stage		15,000
Repair Miller St windows & steps, new front & side doors		30,500
<b>Total Unfinished Hard Costs/Additional Hard Costs</b>	<b>556,000</b>	<b>135,500</b>
Architects & Structural Engineer, Permits & Fees	42,000	
Contractor Fee (7.5%)	41,700	10,163
Contingency (10%)	55,600	13,550
<b>Total Construction Cost/Additional Costs</b>	<b>695,300</b>	<b>159,213</b>
Fundraising Consultant Fees	24,500	
<b>Total Needed to Complete Project</b>		<b>159,213</b>
<b>Total Needed from Campaign</b>	<b>719,800</b>	<b>879,013</b>

*\*These numbers are estimates only and may change as the project gets under way*



## Project Timetable

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January – March 2016	Capital Campaign
Summer 2016	UUCB moves to interim location
Summer 2016	Begin building reconstruction
Fall 2017	New spaces ready for use

## Campaign Giving

*What does our Unitarian Universalist Church mean to you?*

*How does it help you discover and express your heartfelt values?*

*How does UUCB contribute to your personal spirituality and growth, the well being of our community, and the healing of our world?*

A pledge to the “Looking Up: Building Our Vision” campaign is a unique gift. It is made in addition to annual Stewardship Campaign pledges that support our church’s operating expenses. It is an investment in the future so that UUCB members and friends who follow us will inherit a functional and attractive building that serves their needs and is a resource for the larger community.

Members and friends of UUCB, present and past, will provide the vast majority of the funds for the renovation project, but the Campaign will reach out to the local community as well. Potential users of the building in particular may wish to support the project. We hope that the local community will enthusiastically share our vision of how our new space will benefit Belfast and the surrounding area.

We ask that every member of our congregation and many friends be open to receiving a visit or other contact from a Campaign Visitor during January or February..

Gifts to the Capital Campaign can be made in one payment or spread over two or three years. They can be cash donations or transfers of securities. Potential donors are encouraged to contact our Campaign Treasurer, Rick Davis, if they have any questions or concerns about the donation process.

The completed building will be an achievement that is ours, a tangible and spiritual reality that quietly proclaims, “We Looked Up; We Built Our Vision.”

*Instead of leaving money to the UUCB in my will as I'd planned, I'm donating most of it for the building project so I'll have the pleasure of seeing it used while I'm still alive.*

--UUCB Member



## **History of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Belfast**

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UUCB had its beginnings in 1994, when 22 people drawn to Unitarian Universalism began meeting in their Waldo County homes. Over time more people came, and rental spaces for Sunday morning worship took the place of homes. In 2002 the small UU congregation took the plunge and purchased the former Methodist Church, built in 1859, on Miller Street in Belfast. The UUCB now had its own home for services and other activities.

UUCB was staffed by part-time and interim ministers until 2011, when members voted unanimously to hire Rev. Deane Perkins as its first full-time, called minister.



### **Campaign Coordinating Committee**

Chris LeGore, Co-Chair  
Roger Lee, Co-Chair  
Rick Davis

### **Space Needs Committee**

Sarah Nicholson, Chair  
Jan Anderson  
Marty Daniels  
Jane Dopheide  
Roger Lee  
Wendy Watkins  
Reverend Deane Perkins



### **Church Staff**

Rev. Deane Perkins, Minister  
Danielle Bannister, Director  
of Religious Exploration  
Karen Nelson, Music Director  
Maret Knight, Administrative  
Assistant

### **Church Council**

Marty Daniels, President  
Chris LeGore, Past President  
Karen Wigglesworth, Secretary  
Roger Lee, Treasurer  
Members-at-Large:  
Susan Coe, Patty Heath,  
Kathy Muzzy, Chuck Piper,  
and Joseph Watts  
Reverend Deane Perkins, *ex-officio*  
Danielle Bannister, Director of  
Religious Exploration, *ex-officio*



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