

## **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

### **Historic Tacoma Church Selected for National Grant-Making Program**

Tacoma, Washington (November 4, 2016) — The historic Urban Grace church in Tacoma has been selected to participate in a national grant-making program. The church will receive a planning grant and in-kind professional services leading to the opportunity to access up to \$250,000 in capital grants.

The award comes as part of an unprecedented \$14 million National Fund for Sacred Places announced by Partners for Sacred Places and the National Trust for Historic Preservation to assist aging churches in need of repair and restoration. The Fund will provide up to \$250,000 in capital grants, in addition to planning grants and an array of services, for at least 50 individual congregations from a diversity of faiths over four years.

"We are considered by many to be more of a community center than a church," says Jennifer Dean, the church's director of operations, who explains that Urban Grace has its roots in 1883 Tacoma. "We now have about 16 community groups and nonprofits that use our space on a regular basis or who have offices here, and we've got some big repairs and maintenance jobs that we've had to defer for quite a while. This is a large four-story building with stonework all along the outside and a tower at the top with chimes that still play. We are very proud of what we do here, but it is a lot to keep up with."

Urban Grace was selected for support from the Fund due to its architectural significance as the only multi-story "skyscraper" church in the Northwest. Moreover, their community impact is invaluable, as the building is shared with a wide variety of community partners.

"We are looking forward to working with this congregation. They have done great work reinventing themselves to serve Tacoma in meaningful ways in recent years. And their record of space-sharing and opening their building for all kinds of community events is exciting," says Chad Martin, Director of the National Fund.

The National Fund for Sacred Places is a collaboration that builds on Partners for Sacred Places' decades of work helping churches use best stewardship practices with their historic facilities in order to strengthen, serve and celebrate their communities for the common good. The National Trust for Historic Preservation is the nation's leading preservation organization with 60 years of advocacy and grant-making to preserve America's diverse history.

The Fund was launched with two grants totaling nearly \$14 million from the Indiana-based Lilly Endowment Inc. Through this initiative, \$10 million will be disbursed for capital improvements, with the remainder used for planning, technical assistance, coaching and program oversight.

More information, including contact information and high-resolution images, is available from Chad Martin, Director of the National Fund. Details about the application process, eligibility requirements and selection criteria are available by visiting [www.fundforsacredplaces.org](http://www.fundforsacredplaces.org). Applications are now being accepted for the next round of grants, which will be awarded in the fall of 2017.

***About Partners for Sacred Places***

Partners for Sacred Places is the only national, nonsectarian, nonprofit organization dedicated to the sound stewardship and active community use of America's older religious properties.

[www.sacredplaces.org](http://www.sacredplaces.org)

***About The National Trust for Historic Preservation***

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a privately-funded nonprofit organization, works to save America's historic places. [www.savingplaces.org](http://www.savingplaces.org)

**For more information contact:**

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Many of you might remember an announcement that was made in the Spring when we shared that the staff and leadership of Urban Grace had been in communication with the Broadway Center for Performing Arts (BCPA) about a possible partnership. The partnership in discussion centered

Although this came as somewhat of a disappointment, we are excited to share some recent news that we believe may open many different doors on our journey. Urban Grace recently applied for a grant program, The National Fund for Sacred Places, to revitalize historic churches in partnership with Partners for Sacred Places and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. We found out last week that Urban Grace has been invited to enter the program. As a result of this initial acceptance, we will join a cohort of 13 other churches and be given training on how to run an effective capital campaign and deepen our community partnerships. After this training, we will then have the opportunity to apply for a large grant that would invest in the maintenance and renovation of our historic building. This is a great honor as only 14 churches in all of the US were chosen to participate.

Our leadership has been discussing building renovation and upkeep for several years now. Having such a large historic building includes many challenges along with the beauty. At this point, the leadership is recommending we move forward with a capital campaign to address deferred maintenance and improve accessibility for those with limited mobility. Although we have put a lot of time and energy into this recommendation, we still want to make certain we have the support of the church as a whole before committing to a campaign. We plan to hold

listening sessions just after the first of the year that we will encourage everyone to attend. These listening sessions will be an opportunity for people to meet with members of our leadership team to ask questions, hear the details of the proposed plan, and provide any feedback or input you may have.

We would also like to take this as an opportunity to thank so many of you for your ongoing work and commitment to Urban Grace. Whether you have been serving UG for years or are new to our church, we want you to know you are appreciated. Your hard work in maintaining our building, providing good and positive work in our community, and desire to simply show up and be a part of Urban Grace has truly played an instrumental role in allowing us to be given this opportunity.

We want to welcome your input in this process and we trust that you will share our sense of excitement about what the Lord has in mind with this possibility. Please don't hesitate to contact our staff or leadership if you have any questions before our listening sessions begin in January.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amber Bradford', with a stylized, cursive script.

Amber Bradford, Church Council Co-Moderator

On behalf of the Urban Grace Church Council and Board of Trustees



**Partners for Sacred Places**

AT THE INTERSECTION  
OF HERITAGE, FAITH,  
& COMMUNITY



**National Trust *for*  
Historic Preservation®**

### **The National Fund for Sacred Places**

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

#### **Overview**

The National Fund for Sacred Places [the “Fund”] is a program of Partners for Sacred Places in collaboration with the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Fund provides 1) grants for the planning and execution of urgent capital projects at historic churches that are valued for their cultural importance as well as their role in providing human services, strengthening communities, and revitalizing neighborhoods; and 2) training, capacity-building and technical assistance to ensure that grant-funded projects are successfully planned and implemented.

The combined training, consulting and financial resources will also help congregations make the most of their facilities as agents of community renewal, encouraging collaborations with outside groups to activate spaces in exciting and innovative ways that draw people to the church and encourage investment in the community.

#### **Process**

##### Admittance to Program

Approximately 12 congregations per year will be selected to participate in the program.

Potential candidates will be asked to complete an on-line *Letter of Intent*, to determine if baseline eligibility requirements are satisfied, and as an indication of interest and capacity.

Congregations whose Letter of Intent is accepted will be invited to complete a fuller *Program Application* detailing congregational financial and leadership capacity, community programming, and the proposed capital project.

This application will be reviewed by staff of the Partners for Sacred Places. Selected applications will also be reviewed in consultation with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and a volunteer Advisory Committee.

Twelve congregations per year will then be awarded a package of services including group training and customized consulting and training providing by partners for sacred Places as associated consultants. These congregations will also be invited to apply for a small planning grant as part of this process.

##### Capital Grant Request

For churches that successfully complete the consultation and technical assistance, a detailed request for capital funds will be invited. Successful requests will be funded with a matching grant in the range of \$50,000-\$250,000 as outlined in the *Eligibility Requirements*.