

SACRED PLACES INDIANA

A program offered by Indiana Landmarks in collaboration with Partners for Sacred Places



INDIANA LANDMARKS

ELIGIBILITY

TRAINING

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

GRANTS

SPACE MATCHING

NEED & OPPORTUNITY

Many religious congregations in Indiana face declining numbers of congregants and, as a consequence, inadequate funds for operation. Because their older or historic facilities were built for congregations far larger than those of today, their smaller memberships struggle to support the church and ancillary structures. In addition, maintaining and repairing the historic buildings can require technical expertise that is often costly and not readily available. On the plus side, many sacred places have unused space and other assets that can be put to work in new ways to help sustain congregations, their structures and their communities.

Solution

SACRED PLACES INDIANA, A NEW THREE-year pilot program, is a partnership between Indiana Landmarks and Partners for Sacred Places, with support from Lilly Endowment. The program will assist and support Indiana congregations located in historic houses of worship. Congregations selected to participate in the program will receive building stewardship and capacity building training, and will be eligible for planning and capital improvement grants. At the conclusion of the program, each congregation will be better positioned to fund and sustain its historic properties in ways that advance the church's primary mission and expand the relevance of the congregation and the structures in its community.

The program will offer *New Dollars/New Partners* training that helps congregations engage with their communities in creative ways, develop fresh sources of funding, and make the most of their buildings as assets for outreach and ministry. This revived capacity, along with eligibility for building assessments and planning and capital grants, represent a powerful combination of resources.

Across America, the majority of congregations completing Partners for Sacred Places' *New Dollars/New Partners* training have experienced significant progress in fundraising initiatives,

with many completing or planning significant capital improvement projects. We expect Sacred Places Indiana's unprecedented combination of training, professional staff assistance, assessment, and grants to produce even greater returns in financial stability and mission-centered outreach for congregations.

How it Works

EACH YEAR FOR THREE YEARS, SACRED Places Indiana will choose 8 to 10 congregations with historic houses of worship to participate in the program. Selected congregations will typically have small or declining memberships, yet they will also possess lay and clerical leadership committed both to the good stewardship of their structures and to mission-centered change and growth (see separate document, *Criteria for Participation in Sacred Places Indiana*). Congregations will pay a modest fee to participate in the program and supply 4 or 5 people—a combination of lay and clergy leaders—to take part. Participating congregations will receive:

- intensive education and training;
- professional consultation from program and preservation staff;
- preliminary building conditions assessment;
- preliminary space analysis and tools to facilitate the good use of space;
- eligibility for planning and capital improvement grants, awarded in a competitive process.

Indiana Landmarks' headquarters occupies a nineteenth century Methodist church complex, repurposed after the vacant buildings fell into disrepair. Sacred Places Indiana aims to intervene so that congregations are able to maintain their historic structures by growing in capacity and strength and members.





The advisory council guiding Sacred Places Indiana includes clergy, lay leaders, and preservationists. L to R: David Frederick, the program's director; advisory council member Michael Mather, senior pastor of Broadway United Methodist in Indianapolis; Partners for Sacred Places board member Peter D'Angio and President Bob Jaeger; Indiana Landmarks President Marsh Davis.

Education & Training

PARTICIPANTS FROM THE SELECTED congregations will receive training from Partners for Sacred Places' *New Dollars/New Partners* program. In each of the three years, the participants will work through a year-long capacity-building curriculum that transforms how each congregation perceives itself and its place in the community. They'll learn to identify, cultivate, and leverage new relationships with donors, supporters, and program partners in four day-long sessions, augmented by homework and our staff's individual consultations with each congregation. The homework includes producing a case statement for capital projects.

New Dollars graduates are able to apply what they have learned to raise money, restore their buildings, recruit supporters, and revitalize their communities.

Technical Assistance

THE PROGRAM'S PRESERVATION STAFF WILL make site visits to provide general conditions assessments, identify and prioritize maintenance and rehabilitation needs, and advise on the preservation of the congregation's historic structures and building materials. Staff will also provide general information on energy conservation, building codes and

accessibility, and provide referrals to and assistance in meetings with qualified building contractors and other service providers (architects, structural engineers, conservators).

The program director will also visit congregations participating in *New Dollars/New Partners*, supplying guidance and encouragement throughout the year.

Planning and Capital Grants

TO CATALYZE INCREASED FINANCIAL support for participating congregations, Sacred Places Indiana will provide competitively awarded grants on an annual basis for:

- planning and consultation by architects, engineers or other consultants who can help the congregation diagnose repair issues and plan effective and lasting solutions; or by experts in helping a congregation plan and execute a capital campaign.
- capital expenditures for the repair or restoration of building exteriors, structural systems and important artistic features such as stained glass or sculpture.

Space Matching Demonstration Project

SACRED PLACES INDIANA WILL SELECT ONE city for a demonstration project to help congregations make better use of their empty or under-utilized space. The program director and preservation staff will work with up to six congregations in a geographic area of the selected city to produce a thorough space inventory and needs analysis for each. At the same time, Sacred Places Indiana will conduct research to match the congregations and the available spaces with compatible nonprofit organizations in need of facilities. The project has dual goals: to generate rental income to increase the financial health of the congregation, and assist the congregation in broadening its reach in the community.

A one-day training program will help clergy and lay leaders and arts and not-for-profit leaders understand each other, learn how to develop a sustainable relationship, and become acquainted with fundamental concepts of sharing space in a way that strengthens each organization.

QUESTIONS?

Your first stop for information on Sacred Places Indiana is the Indiana Landmarks' regional office nearest you:

Central Regional Office

Indianapolis
317-639-4534 or 800-450-4534
central@indianalandmarks.org

Eastern Regional Office

Cambridge City
765-478-3172
east@indianalandmarks.org

Northeast Field Office

Wabash
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Northern Regional Office

South Bend
574-232-4534
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Northwest Field Office

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Southeast Field Office

Aurora
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Southern Regional Office

Jeffersonville
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Southwest Field Office

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Western Regional Office

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Sacred Places Indiana

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INDIANA LANDMARKS

Indiana Landmarks revitalizes communities, reconnects people to heritage, and saves meaningful places. Founded in 1960 and supported by members, the private non-profit organization maintains eight offices across the state to assist individuals, organizations, cities, towns and neighborhoods in saving, restoring, and revitalizing historic places.

www.indianalandmarks.org



AT THE INTERSECTION
OF HERITAGE, FAITH,
& COMMUNITY

Partners for Sacred Places

A nonprofit founded in 1989 and based in Philadelphia, Partners for Sacred Places serves congregations with older buildings across the nation. Partners applies its experience in the care, funding, and shared use of church facilities to help congregations make the most of their buildings as assets for ministry and outreach to the larger community.

www.sacredplaces.org