

Sanctuary Report, Congregational Meeting, First Church of Christ, Woodbridge, May 2021

On March 25, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to accept the \$100,000 matching funds from the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) for Phase One of the plaster repair and repainting of the sanctuary. Phase One will include the ceiling, cornices, north wall, and reinstallation of the plaster medallion above the chandelier. Acceptance of these funds requires that we accept a 15-year historical easement on the sanctuary. SHPO has approved our contracting with the fine decorative arts experts, John Canning Company, Cheshire, Connecticut to do this work.

David Riccio, a VP at Canning, visited with a small group of interested persons in the sanctuary on April 22 to discuss the logistics and details of the proposed restoration work in preparation for finalizing a contract. He plans to use the original 1880's grisaille/trompe l'oeil décor that is still visible behind the organ as inspiration for color and design and will 'mock-up' some decorative panels for the congregation to see. The project, which includes scaffolding below the ceiling, is expected to take 3-4 months.

A Sanctuary Committee has been formed to raise the needed funds and it has sent out letters to parishioners and friends in the wider community requesting donations to the Sanctuary Fund. It is estimated that Phase One of the work will cost \$250,000. Even with the SHPO grant we will need to raise an additional \$150,000. One-third, \$56,000, that includes \$10,000 from the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, has already been received – THANK YOU SO MUCH. Raising the remaining funds will be vital to having Canning complete the work later this year and to have the scaffolding out before Christmas.

Your generous donation would be most appreciated. B. Joyce Simpson, Sanctuary Committee.

“We have a unique nexus of historical knowledge, superior craftsmanship and funding opportunities.”



“It is an important and valuable space, and its preservation is an important responsibility and legacy. An oasis during life's happy and sad moments.”