



## PRESS RELEASE

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***The Michigan Historic Preservation Network***  
**and**  
***Partners for Sacred Places***  
**Bring Fund-Raising Training to Michigan**

For the second year in Michigan, the *Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MHPN)* and *Partners for Sacred Places* have collaborated in a venture to assist religious congregations with their older and historic buildings. First UU Church Detroit has been selected to participate in this program. It is as *New Dollars/New Partners*, the nation's only preservation effort that provides practical tools to help congregations with their aging edifices. The MHPN's sponsorship of *New Dollars/New Partners* has been funded by the *Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs* and the *Kellogg Foundation*.

A primary purpose of the *New Dollars/New Partners* program is to broaden and diversify the pool of donors and partners that support the management and community use of local sacred places.

Michigan's fund-raising training program is unique in the nation in that it is the first *New Dollars/New Partners* initiative with a statewide focus, and involves seven religious structures in addition to First UU Church Detroit in seven communities, including Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Newaygo, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Lansing, and Manistee.

*Partners for Sacred Places* previously has offered this training through the sponsorship of historic preservation organizations and denominational offices at single sites in California, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Vermont, and Washington, D.C. Congregations that participated in the program have enjoyed amplified levels of motivation, improved leadership, and increased knowledge and effectiveness for their fund-raising teams.

According to one participant from Washington D.C: *"I am very grateful for this learning opportunity. Sacred Places is helping our congregation think not just about its building, but its mission in every respect."*

This training is designed for congregations that:

- Have a sacred place that is more than 50 years old
- Have capital needs that are beyond the financial capability of the congregations
- Want to deepen their community connections
- Want to use their building more effectively

During the year-long workshop series, congregations will learn:

- How to make an effective case for their building as a community asset (history, architecture, community-serving ministries that are offered)
- How to calculate the dollar value of the outreach programs with an on-line calculating tool
- How to discover new community partners through Asset Based Community Development
- How to maximize internal funding support and tap new external resources

The first two sessions for the program will take place at First United Methodist Church, 227 E, Fulton Street in Grand Rapids on June 8 and 9. Representing First UU Church Detroit at these sessions will be Rev. Drew Johnston, Alicia Biggers, Colleen Dolan-Greene and Bill McKnight.

### **About the Michigan Historic Preservation Network**

The *Michigan Historic Preservation Network* (MHPN) is the largest membership organization in the state dedicated to recognizing and preserving Michigan's rich cultural and architectural heritage. Founded in 1981, the MHPN fosters the protection of the state's irreplaceable historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, features and open spaces. The membership of over 1,500 includes owners of residential, commercial, industrial, institutional and agricultural property; students and educators; governmental officials and appointees; archaeologists, architects and designers; landscape architects and landscapers; interior designers, contractors, developers, realtors, bankers and insurance agents; and preservation volunteers and professionals. The volunteer board of directors and the staff help Network members maintain the neighborhoods where they live and the downtowns where they work, build new ways to respect and reinforce local character, revitalize some of Michigan's oldest urban centers, adapt all types of buildings for current uses, and use to best advantage the rich rural, agricultural, and maritime heritage of Michigan.

For more information on the *New Dollars/New Partners* program and how MHPN is supporting your community, please contact Nancy Finegood, Executive Director at 517-371-8080 or via e-mail at [Finegood@mhpn.org](mailto:Finegood@mhpn.org). Or visit MHPN's web site at: [www.mhpn.org](http://www.mhpn.org).

### **About Partners for Sacred Places**

Since 1989, Partners for Sacred Places has helped congregations across the country sustain and actively use their historic sacred places. Partners' expertise is in promoting and developing community-wide funding for historic religious properties. Partners publishes *The Complete Guide to Capital Campaigns for Historic Churches and Synagogues* and maintains the nation's largest clearinghouse of practical information on the development of capital funding for houses of worship. With main offices in Philadelphia, more information about Partners for Sacred Places is available at [www.sacredplaces.org](http://www.sacredplaces.org).

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