



December 2, 2023

Dear Friends of Fountain Street Church,

With any journey, with any challenge, the first steps often are the hardest. Those first steps, after all, require not only the exertion of moving forward, they require the careful consideration of innumerable possibilities and viewpoints, and then charting appropriate action and direction.

Regarding what to do about Fountain Street Church's bell tower, the path forward has been charted.

In a Monday, Nov. 20, motion, the Foundation Board urged the Governing Board to enter into a contract for the restoration of FSC's bell tower with a vote of 6 -2. One week later, on Nov. 27, the Governing Board voted to sign a contract with Owen Ames Kimball with a vote of 9 - 4.

Expect to see the physical signs of that restoration project as soon as Spring 2024. And expect the fundraising effort to begin even sooner.

Fountain Street Church has reserved \$403,000 towards the \$2.35 million restoration of the bell tower project and has pledged for an additional \$300,000. The Foundation Board has proposed support for releasing up to \$800,000 of its \$3.9 million dollar fund to match additional contributions received toward the bell tower project. And a team of congregants with experience in large-scale fundraising efforts has assembled, optimistic it can raise an additional \$800,000 from members, congregants, and the community at large. With construction loan financing likely necessary, the pursuit of such is already underway. Meanwhile, the Governing Board is redirecting \$100,000 previously budgeted for church operations in 2024 to the bell tower project and will revise the 2024 FSC budget to accommodate such.

In some ways, the journey has just begun, as we launch the Bell Tower Campaign Committee. In other ways, we're continuing a journey that began months ago, years ago, decades ago, and generations ago.

In July the members of FSC's Governing Board and Foundation Board gathered to discuss what's next for the bell tower and [vowed to approach the challenges before us with open minds and a commitment to keep you informed and engaged.](#)

Since then, we've heard from dozens and dozens of you. It should come as no surprise that your opinions sometimes differ. But know this: Your opinions always matter.

Through all of us — through the past and future months, decades, and generations — what continues to ring true is the recognition that our beloved church community is more than a building, or a tower, or a Fountain Street address.

We know that anything we do, any steps we take, must equip and empower our church community. Our work together transcends the bell tower or any portion of our building.

Thank you for continuing this journey alongside us.

Together —we steward, prioritize, and nurture our church's physical and financial assets.

With hope, gratitude, and love,

The Governing Board  
The Foundation Board