

# **PHASE ONE: PEW ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT**

*Spring/Summer 2023*

- Our obligation to be welcoming and inclusive is clear
- Significant congregational support expressed in the questionnaire
- Now is the time to walk our UU talk!

## **Goals:**

1. Provide accessible wheelchair seating in the main part of the sanctuary
  - *space for 4 wheelchairs or walkers*
  - *chairs so users can sit with their family member/caregiver*
2. Increase space at front for easier mobility for all congregants
3. Increase space at front for choir, guest musicians, piano and outside music or arts groups
4. Preserve historic feel of the sanctuary

## **Plan**

1. Remove complete front row of pews
  - a. Move decorative pew front boards to new front row
  - b. Preserve stained mahogany wood trim
  - a. Remove 3" wooden platform to make floor level with existing floor.
    - i. Finish exposed wood floor or add carpeting
2. Make two larger accessible seating pews
  - a. Remove one pew box about halfway back off the center aisle. Remove one pew box off the west side aisle about halfway back.
  - b. Remove the 3" wooden platform in the accessible new seating area (so level with existing aisle floor and wheelchairs can get in)
  - c. Remove one red cushioned bench completely. Remove all or part of back cushioned bench (family & caregivers will have chairs)

Additional info:

1. We have 3 estimates for this work (\$20,000--\$25,000)
2. Lead paint tests done on pew bench, pew floor & column
  - a. *Results indicate that there is lead paint in the columns, pew benches and floor*
  - b. *Carpenters will manage/mitigate lead paint dust issues*
  - c. *Cost estimates vary tremendously depending on this.*

3. LCHIP (Land & Community Heritage Investment Program) has approved this pew accessibility project (4/12/23), required under the 5 year monitoring agreement following grants. Columns will remain.
4. The annual allocation of Building Endowment funds (\$25,000 annually) were not used for two years during the pandemic.
5. Proposal is to use up to \$25,000 from the endowment building funds for this project. **The Endowment Trustees unanimously support this distribution.**
6. A spring distribution of these unspent endowed building funds would enable this project to move forward in June 2023. **The Endowment Trustees unanimously support this timetable.**



**Dublin Community Church Accessible Pew—similar to our plan**