

# *Building Project Update*

EAST EMD UMC | JANUARY 13TH, 2022



## *Waiting For FEMA Approval For Demo*

While we have experienced some delays in the start of our building demolition, our overall project timeline continues to remain steady. While schedules and timeframes are always subject to change, at this point we continue to point toward June of 2023 for the completion of our project.

The reason for the delay in the start of the building demolition is FEMA is required to consult with the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Native American tribes that have a presence in the area before releasing a project like ours to demolish a historic structure.

After quite a bit of back and forth between FEMA and SHPO a formal consultation letter was crafted by FEMA and sent to the SHPO and Native American tribes in the area on December 23rd. The SHPO has 30 days to respond to the letter and the tribes have 45 days to respond.

While unexpected delays like this can feel frustrating it is important that we remember FEMA is working with us to provide a multi-million-dollar grant that makes our building project possible. There is a lot of red tape to cut through when dealing with federal grant money and the team we are working with at FEMA is working very hard on our behalf to help our project get through all of the red tape as quickly as possible. They continue to be vital and extremely helpful partners on our project.

### ***SUMMARY***

Delay in Demolition  
due to FEMA not  
affecting overall  
project timeline

Stained Glass  
Windows Being  
Removed This Week

Building Committee  
Will Have Design Info  
to Share Soon

## *Stained-Glass Windows Being Removed*

Fortunately, we received special permission to remove the remainder of our stained-glass windows from the sanctuary before the main demolition project begins. Work began on removing the windows this past Monday and should be completed in the next few days.

This job is being performed by Emmanuel Glass Studio, one of the most respected stained-glass studios in the United States. Our windows will be brought back to Emmanuel where they will be stored safely, repaired, restored, and readied to be installed in our new building.



Progress on Window Removal As of Tuesday Morning

## ***Building Committee Progress***

On the building design front, we have not shared much lately because there has not been much to share as our architects and contractor have been busy making plans and crafting designs. However, there should be a large amount of information coming out very soon!

Our building committee is reviewing a 50% Design Development plan from our architects. These plans have a great amount of additional detail from the plans we have seen previously. Our architects have consulted a variety of stakeholder groups in crafting these designs and we are excited to get a detailed look at our architects' newest ideas for our project.

Our general contractor is going to run a pricing exercise on these plans to make sure they fit our project budget. If the plans do fit our project budget, we will send these preliminary plans, the budget, and our preliminary project financial plan to our District Committee on Location and Building for approval. We will also present the updated designs to the congregation to make sure the people of our church community are in the know and can have their voices heard in this project.

Once we have an approval from our District Committee, we will then be able to make plans to have an all-church membership vote on the preliminary plans and preliminary financial plans for the project. This vote will be an up or down vote from the church to affirm or not affirm that the project is on the right track. After this vote happens there will still be more design/project development and time for input from our congregation. A final vote by our church's administrative council will be held before the project is completely green lit.





# ***Your Voice Matters***

It is the genuine hope of the Building Committee that enough care and time are put into informing and listening to our congregation that consensus can be built and these votes are completed in a celebratory manner and not a divisive manner.

To accomplish this, we need you to speak up, provide input, and ask unanswered questions that you may have. Congregational feedback has been vital in making necessary adjustments to this project. Your voice not only matters but is incredibly useful for our church's project. Please contact the East End UMC Building Committee with questions, suggestions, concerns, and comments at [eastendrebuilding@gmail.com](mailto:eastendrebuilding@gmail.com).

We are entering an incredibly exciting time for our church as we clarify what our new Beacon on the Hill will look like. Thank you for the hope and faith you continue to pour into this church. This congregation is a true inspiration to me and to the churches of our conference. In this time of turmoil and waiting YOU have been and continue to be living beacons of God's love.

In Christ,

Scott

