

Prospect Methodist Church Stained Glass Window Proposal

10/06/2024



East Sanctuary Window

History

Note: The following information from 1816 to 1978 was borrowed from a document compiled by church member Mrs. Ruth Emery. The following history timeline also includes information on the stained glass and storm windows.

The first Methodist services in Prospect were held in the home of the parents of B.C. Adams around 1816 or 1817. In 1837 the first church building, a 24' x 36' frame structure, was constructed on the ground where the present church now stands. In 1858 this structure was moved over to Main Street near the site of the old mill and used as a barn. At that same time, the first 36' x 54' section of the current church building was constructed. In 1900 the church was rebuilt adding the Sunday School room to the south, under which a basement was built for a furnace. In 1910 an organ loft and a basement for a kitchen and dining room were added. In 1911 a used pipe organ from Findley, Ohio and electric lights were dedicated. During this time, we were known as the Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church.

On November 14, 1937 the 100th anniversary of the first church building was celebrated.

In 1940 the Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Protestant, and the Southern Methodist Churches united to form one denomination simply called "The Methodist Church".

The church year of 1951-1952 included repairs and additions to the church building and parsonage.

In 1953 -1954 stained-glass windows were installed. That same year the organ pipes were moved into the recessed area at the front of the sanctuary. A Hammond electric organ was installed replacing the original organ from Findlay.

In the summer of 1955, the men of the church began the largest project attempted at one time. Excavation began by hand to make a large room and kitchen under the sanctuary. The Women's Society of Christian Services paid for finishing and furnishing the new kitchen. New pulpit furniture was given to the church. Dedication services for all this work were held on April 14, 1957.

In 1968 the Methodist Church united with the Evangelical United Brethren Church and became known as The United Methodist Church.

In 1970 another dedication service was held for work completed on the Sunday School Room, Church office, and carpeting and a Memorial gift of new pews. In 1978 the Hammond organ was replaced by a new Allen digital computer organ.

In the summer of 1978 storm windows, vinyl siding, and insulation were added to the church, making it more attractive and comfortable.

From 1978 to 2024 the church maintained its existing footprint and completed numerous capital improvement projects including: concrete work, new HVAC systems, a new roof, parking lot, interior painting, carpeting, and audiovisual equipment.

In 2023 - 2024 the Church separated from the United Methodist Church, became a subsidiary of the Global Methodist Church, and renamed itself the Prospect Methodist Church.

Church Council Investigation and Actions

The Council has discussed the stained-glass window issues for the last few years. At the end of 2023 it was determined we could no longer wait and risk a major crack or catastrophic failure, so we started to investigate solutions.

It was quickly determined that this type of project required specialized skills, knowledge, and materials offered by limited companies. A regular general contractor and even a national window company does not have the capabilities and craftsmen to manage this type of work. The restoration of stained-glass church windows deals with artwork and church history and should be turned over to only those with proven success.

The council searched for qualified companies both locally and nationally. Late in the process we also talked to our local Prospect Lutheran Church who had similar stained-glass window issues.

We focused our discussions with two vendors. A small company from Marion called **Home Again Stained Glass** and a national firm out of Minnesota called **Associated Crafts & Willet Hauser**.

The local company had experience working on multiple church windows in Marion. All the work would be done in their Marion studio. After many visits to the church, they discovered that our project would be at the limit of their capacity and skill set. They were confident that they could perform the work on the smaller windows, but did not feel comfortable working on the large east window due to its size, weight, and difficulty in transporting it to their local studio. Home Again also notified Council that they would not be able to acquire adequate damage insurance in case any panels were broken during the project. After meeting multiple times with Home Again, Council eliminated them from the selection process.

Associated Crafts & Willet Hauser was at the other end of the vendor spectrum. They had over 100 years of experience and specialized in both new and restoration of church windows across the country. They have multiple crews that have successfully completed thousands of projects with more than 100 being in Ohio. Major clients were the Smithsonian Institution, Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, Second Baptist Church in Houston, the Church Center at the United Nations, and West Point Military Academy. **While these are large nationally recognized customers, they also served small rural churches with stained-glass window problems.**

Current Stained-Glass Window Problem

The stained-glass windows were installed in 1953-1954 (70 years ago) and the storm windows were installed in 1978 (46 years ago). The storm window design along with “Father Time” have caused window issues.

Window structures that old go through thousands of expansion and contraction cycles as they withstand both seasonal changes and daily extremes between day and night temperatures. Our windows have a diminished appearance on the exterior due to condensation and evidence of deteriorated wood framing. On the inside you can see bowing, cracking, deteriorated caulking/cement, and broken solder points.

The greatest concern is the large sanctuary window on the east wall. Upon inspection you can see how it is bowed in the bottom half of the window. Even though there is a protective storm window on the outside, there is concern that a strong wind or hail could create enough vibration to cause the window to eventually crack or collapse.

The storm windows are a residential style with residential glazing and no means of ventilating the air gap between the stained window and the storm window. The major concern is that without ventilation there is considerable strain on the stained windows during the summer as heat is trapped and no way for condensation to escape. As the heat and condensation accumulated in the air space, the paint on the wood window frames has blistered and the wood has absorbed moisture causing deterioration.

The positive effect of our existing storm windows is that they provided protection from vandalism, rain, snow, and hail along with adding insulation for the summer and winter.

Council Recommendation

After many internal discussions during the past year, the Council recommends that the church membership accept Proposal Two and approve \$77,110 from the Church Building Fund be paid to Associated Crafts & Willet Hauser.

This recommendation is based on the following reasons:

1. We currently have issues with our stained-glass windows, including but not limited to bowing and deteriorating exterior wood frames. We are unable to predict the exact time that we could have a broken window or catastrophic failure, but in time something serious is going to happen. The history of the church depicts generations of care and updating. We feel it is our ongoing responsibility to react to maintenance and safety issues to protect both the building and the congregation.
2. The exterior storm windows have provided protection and insulation, but their residential design has caused an exterior condensation film and stress on the stained windows. The storms were a great investment 46 years ago but lack the innovative technology and materials of modern protective coverings. **This is why we recommended Proposal Two in lieu of Proposal One.**
3. This company has an outstanding resume. After going through a learning process, research, and interviews, we felt that this company could provide the best service and finished product. **They are fully insured.** Other firms may be able to provide cheaper services, but we felt that the Proposal Two cost was reasonable and that we would be placing the art and history of the church in the most capable hands.
4. The pricing is guaranteed for 90 days from the proposal date. This protects us even if we sign a contract after the scheduled Oct 24, 2024, price increase.
5. The project would take 4-6 weeks to complete. Willet Hauser would schedule the project for next summer to avoid a conflict with the current Pre-School term. They presently have a 2-5 month lead time. The major cost would occur in 2025.
6. **They plan to perform the work on site with a portable studio.**
7. We have money in the Church Building Fund (approximately \$155,000) to pay for the project. We recommended that **an additional \$15,000 (20%) be set aside** until the project is complete to cover unanticipated expenses. The Lutheran Church said they had very minimal additional costs.
8. **We will owe (\$19,278) 25% of \$77,110 upon signing the contract** and be billed monthly after work begins. Based on the schedule we will be able to delay additional billing until next year.
9. **We plan to hire a grant writer to pursue funding for all or a portion of this project.**

Willet Hauser sent a representative to the Prospect Methodist Church in early January 2024. They photographed and inspected the interior of every stained-glass window in the church (18) and inspected the exterior storm windows. They responded with two proposals dated January 25, 2024, with pictures, recommendations, and pricing.

Council reviewed this information and continued to discuss the project over the summer. We decided to reach back out to Willet Hauser in September to confirm pricing. We received revised pricing dated August 27, 2024. The new proposals showed a 2.2% price increase. Willet Hauser also stated they were planning an additional price increase on Oct 24, 2024. The following summaries represent the August pricing.

Proposal One Summary: Repair Only - \$32,598

This scope of work would focus on (8) windows including the large east window. Restoration would be unique to each window including reducing bulging sections as needed, install new steel support braces, stabilize stained glass, re-cement interior and exterior, stabilize or replace any cracked glass with epoxy, and undergo a program of historic restoration where needed.

Proposal Two Summary: Repair and New Exterior Protective Coverings - \$77,110

This scope of work would include everything outlined above in Proposal One plus removing all existing storm windows (14). Clean the stain-glass windows. Refurbish all wooden window frames and apply a primer coat and final coat of Sherwin Williams Duration paint. Install all new window coverings using the Associated Crafts Klear-Flo protective covering system utilizing ¼" Acrylic panels and ventilation tubes.

More information and pictures of the Klear-Flo system can be viewed online by searching for **Associated Crafts Klear-Flo**.

Late in our investigation, we discovered that the Prospect Lutheran Church had hired Willet Hauser earlier this year for their window project. Upon completion of their project, a group of our PMC Council members had an opportunity to personally inspect the project and interview the Lutheran Church's project representative, Mr. David Britton. The result of the visit was that Mr. Britton was very satisfied with the quality of workmanship, adherence to the schedule, communication, and budget control.

Their church membership was pleased with the results and appreciated the minimum disruption to their church activities. Our Council agreed that the workmanship was excellent and was impressed with the new Klear-Flo window protection system.

Next Step

On October 13, we will have an open discussion on the Council's recommendation after church. We will do our best to answer all questions and concerns. After the discussion we will then hold a secret ballot, count the votes, and announce the results. A **YES** vote to accept the proposal requires a 51% approval. After the vote announcement (**YES or NO**), we will discuss the next steps.

Thanks to everyone who participates in this process!

Please pray for guidance from our Heavenly Father

Action Taken

The congregation met in October of 2024 for the purpose of discussing and voting on how to address the proposal offered by the Board of Trustees and the Administrative Council.

After long and valued conversation, it was determined Prospect Methodist Church would retain Associated Crafts and Willet Hauser. This decision was aided by learning, late in the investigation, the Prospect Lutheran Church had hired Willet Houser earlier in 2024 for their own window revitalization project. A group of Prospect Methodist Council Members had opportunity to personally inspect the project and interview their project manager. This was indeed, very helpful.

The scope of work will focus on (8) windows, including the large east window. Restoration will be unique to each window, including reducing bulging sections as needed, install new support braces, stabilize stained-glass, re-cement interior and exterior, stabilize or replace any cracked glass with epoxy, and undergo a program of historic restoration where needed.

Additionally, all existing storm windows will be removed (14). All stain-glass windows would be cleaned. All wooden window frames would be refurbished, and a primer coat of Sherwin Williams duration paint would be applied. New window coverings will be installed using the Associated Crafts Klear-Flo protective covering system utilizing 1/4" Acrylic panels and ventilation tubes.

This work is scheduled to be completed at the end of the preschool year in May and June of 2025.