

# PROJECT DRIVERS



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There are a multitude of reasons for North Parish to support this project. Every member and friend of this church will benefit in some direct manner once the Project is complete. At the core, however, there are four primary drivers that explain why this Project is so important to the Mission, and the future, of North Parish Church:

**ACCESSIBILITY:** We have a legal, ethical and moral responsibility to ensure that all of our church facilities are fully accessible to every individual who may wish to pass through our doors or partake of our programs. Our Religious Education wing, and any activities that take place on the second floor of Old Center Hall, do not comply with this standard. The Massachusetts Architectural Access Board granted us an extension for the RE wing until 2016, and we run a risk of significant financial penalties if we do not create an accessible facility by this date. But more importantly .... making our facilities fully accessible is simply the right thing to do.

**CONSOLIDATION:** Bringing all of our activities Under One Roof will enhance the way we live our Mission. The plan for the new building will bring all of our facilities, and more importantly all of our activities, together in one building. Rather than isolating religious education activities at the end of a long hallway and youth activities across the street, the new plan creates a unified circulation path that holistically links all of our facilities in an unbroken loop and will encourage constant interaction among parishioners of all ages and interests. The plan provides appealing, functional office space for our dedicated staff, in the same building where all of our programming takes place.

**SAFETY:** No longer will there be a need for staff, children and congregation members to cross a sometimes very busy street at an unmarked location, often multiple times a day. In addition, bringing our facilities together will create a more secure and more easily monitored environment, reinforcing our goals and commitments for being a Safe Church.

**FINANCIAL PRUDENCE:** This project will enable North Parish to better control its financial destiny, eliminating the one-way cash outflow in rent payments for Old Center Hall that is currently a significant part of our budget. The only certainty we have with these payments is that that they would increase to market rate in the near term, and continually grow from there over time. Far better, if necessary, to put these funds to work paying down a mortgage on a building we own. If we can raise the full cost of the project through this campaign, then these funds could instead be invested annually in our plant fund. In addition, the new building will be much more energy efficient than either the current RE wing or OCH, reducing our energy costs and enhancing our experience as a Green Sanctuary.

North Parish is a 350-year-old faith community. Our fundamental motivation for this project is to sustain and grow the congregation. Our forebears left us a beautiful, historic meetinghouse. This project provides us the opportunity to leave a legacy for future parishioners that will serve them as well as that meetinghouse serves us, for generations to come.