

# TOGETHER UNDER ONE ROOF



3 Great Pond Road

North Andover MA 01845

978.687.7948

For the past several years, we at The North Parish of North Andover have been evaluating strategies for addressing in a permanent manner the building-related issues that were left incomplete by the project that we undertook together between 2002 and 2009. We achieved some incredible accomplishments with that initiative, preserving, protecting and updating our historic meetinghouse and enhancing accessibility to and around our sanctuary. Even as we celebrated what we accomplished, however, we knew that our religious education classrooms remained less than fully accessible, and that our staff offices as well as programmatic space for youth and other key mission-driven activities were still housed in old, less than fully hospitable, temporary rented space over which we had no long-term control.

At a Special Congregational Meeting held on June 2<sup>nd</sup> of this year, the members of this church overwhelmingly demonstrated their support for the plan that has been developed by the Board and several task force teams to solve these problems. The plan we have before us is a well-considered, pragmatic solution that brings our entire church community back together under one roof, enhancing inter-generational communication and awareness, providing our staff with office space that meets their needs comfortably and efficiently, and establishing North Parish as a fully accessible church community welcoming to all. Just as important, implementation of this plan will re-establish the congregation's permanent control over all of our facilities, ensuring that we will leave to our successors at North Parish the same sort of physical legacy that our forebears left to us.

The plan is quite straightforward. On a footprint roughly twice the size of the current RE wing, we plan to construct a new two-story addition to the church that includes the following:

- ▶ An expanded RE facility, providing four classrooms spaces of diverse size to support our most critical need to flexibly accommodate larger “bubble” RE age groups that don't easily fit into a classroom of more traditional size, together with additional storage / flex space for RE supplies and equipment;
- ▶ A new chapel facility, with views to the woods behind us and a convenient serving kitchen;
- ▶ New staff offices that will support current staff needs with some modest expansion capacity;
- ▶ A large, sub-dividable multi-purpose meeting room to be used by youth and a broad range of other programmatic activities;
- ▶ Two new restrooms on the upper floor of the addition, adjacent to the RE classrooms but also much more convenient to the sanctuary than our current facilities;

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## Together Under One Roof (continued)

- ▶ A new vertical circulation node with a four-stop elevator and open stairway that will directly and easily link all of the different parts of our expanded facility, including a new entry with direct and welcoming access to/from the garden.

Congregational support for the plan itself has been clearly demonstrated through numerous focus groups, discussions and ultimately by the near-unanimous vote on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. That vote, however, carries with it a congregational responsibility and commitment to come together by stepping up to raise the funds we need to implement the plan. This packet includes information that will help you to understand the need we have, and the opportunity you have, to help bring this project to fruition. Our entire congregation looks forward to, and appreciates, your financial support for this critically important and vitally exciting project that will help our members and friends deliver on the mission we hold at North Parish for generations to come.

