

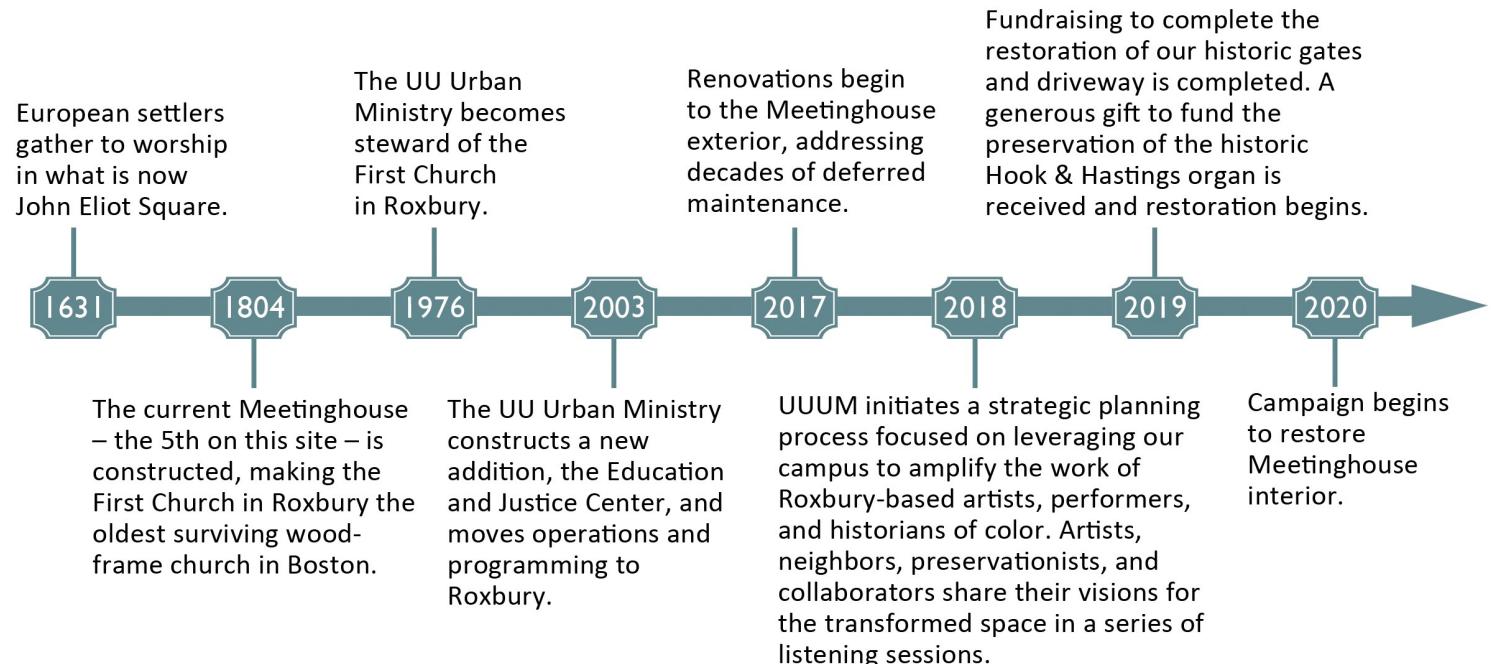


A LIVING LANDMARK

CAMPAIGN FOR
THE FIRST CHURCH
IN ROXBURY
MEETINGHOUSE
INTERIOR



A COMMUNITY



This living landmark has withstood time, and with your help it will continue to serve Roxbury for the next 200 years!

HONORING THE PAST BUILDING THE FUTURE

In colonial New England, the meetinghouse was the focal point of the community, where residents gathered to engage with each other and conduct the business of their civic life. Our project reclaims the meetinghouse's role for the 21st century. As one of Roxbury's largest gathering spaces, the rehabilitated First Church in Roxbury Meetinghouse will amplify the artistry and cultural vibrancy of our neighborhood by hosting cross-cultural dialogue and celebration, concerts, lectures and political forums. With support from foundations and generous individuals, the UU Urban Ministry has raised and expended \$2 million on restoring and painting the exterior and improving the surrounding landscaping. As exterior work nears completion, we are turning our attention inside to truly respond to our community's call for improvements. Together, we are ushering in a new era for the Meetinghouse as a center of arts, education, and civic programming in the heart of Roxbury.



A VISION

With no congregation worshipping in its sanctuary, the First Church in Roxbury Meetinghouse already hosts a wide array of panels and lectures, musical and theatrical performances, art exhibits and community meetings. Its renovation will make it an even more valuable resource to the Roxbury community and beyond. An historic jewel with particular significance to our neighborhood, the Meetinghouse is not a monument. Rather, it serves as a community landmark, and a living and breathing laboratory for art, civic engagement, and social action. Through its social justice mission and programming, the UU Urban Ministry has a record of bringing people together across the divides of race, class and faith for dialogue and debate, art creation and appreciation, and opportunities to learn about justice and work toward social change. More than ever, the world needs these opportunities. The Meetinghouse provides just such a gathering space. It is both a tool for telling the rich history of the community that surrounds it and a catalyst for creativity, innovation, and connection.



A PATH

With support from individuals, private foundations, Boston's Community Preservation Fund, and the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the UU Urban Ministry has installed an efficient heating system and renovated the exterior envelope of the building, and is restoring the campus's historic circular driveway.

The interior renovation marks the final step in the full preservation and transformation of this space. With input from neighbors and Unitarian Universalists, preservationists, and artists and performers, we have designed a fully rehabilitated Meetinghouse that will be continuously alive with music, theatre, educational programs, civic forums, and robust community life!



A NEED

Your generous contribution does more than repair plaster walls, reupholster pews, improve accessibility, implement a fire suppression system, restore historic lighting, add event lighting, and install a professional sound system. Your gift highlights the artistic talent of our city, celebrates Roxbury's rich history, and takes action toward our shared commitment to social justice.

Please partner with us by contributing to our \$2.8 million capital campaign. Join us in building community.



MEETINGHOUSE INTERIOR RESTORATION: CAMPAIGN BUDGET



Envisioning a space that preserves the building's history and moves us into the future

Interior restoration and repair, including new plaster, wood trim, expansion of performance spaces, installation of new accessible entrance	\$1,400,000
Fire detection and suppression	\$500,000
Repair of the historic lighting fixtures, including polishing and rewiring; general electrical updates, including service upgrades	\$350,000
Installation of commercial sound system	\$50,000
Upholstery/restoration of 100 pews	\$500,000
Total Interior Renovation	\$2,800,000

ABOUT THE UU URBAN MINISTRY

The Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry is a social justice organization located in the Roxbury neighborhood of Boston. Since its founding in 1826, the UU Urban Ministry has brought people together across difference to build stronger communities in which all individuals have the power and resources they need to live into their potential. Today, our work focuses in three areas: safe shelter and workforce development training for survivors of domestic violence, academic enrichment for Boston-area youth of color, and arts and humanities programming grounded in an antiracism framework that amplifies the work of artists and historians of color in our neighborhood.

It is in service to this work that we are renovating the interior of the First Church in Roxbury, our campus's flagship building and a pending Historic Landmark. As historian and former State Representative Byron Rushing reminds us:

"The Meetinghouse should never be a landmark in the distance. It should be a landmark that everybody knows. And that they also know is open and available to them, no matter when they get here....Yes, this is a Meetinghouse that was and we are going to make it a Meetinghouse that is."

Join us in preserving this living landmark and making it open and available to all.

