**Buildings & Grounds Annual Report – 2019**

The most significant project that was completed during 2019 was focused on the complete restoration of the window well retaining wall and wrought iron fence on the Putnam Street side of the church. Discussion on this project was initiated in 2018 and the Board of Trust Governors approved a grant for the work to proceed. Work was begun by the contractor in September of 2019 and the results were much more satisfying than we could have predicted. The retaining wall was permanently reinforced, the wrought iron fence was straightened and reinforced, rain water drainage from the roof was redirected under the sidewalk into the street, and we acquired a new sidewalk with a new green strip along the curb.

Several other projects were developed and discussed during 2019 as follows:

* Improved lighting for the courtyard side of the church building and new lighting around the RE Building that will help illuminate the access ramp, the entrance to the church office, the stairs into the courtyard, and all access points to the church on the courtyard side - the goal of this project is improved safety and security.
* Installation of point-of-use water heaters in the RE Building - this project is the last of a series of energy efficiency upgrades for the RE Building that was accomplished in conjunction with Green Sanctuary.
* Discussion and development of an application for a grant from the Unitarian Universalist Association Chalice Lighters to assist with funding a major project – an application was submitted in December, 2019, with the assistance of George Banziger (our application was approved in January, 2020, to assist with funding for new heating and air conditioning systems in the church sanctuary).

I want to compliment the hard working members of the B&G Committee: Jann Adams, Dave Ballantyne, Tim Finkel, Gary Hamilton, Roger Kalter, and Gwen Noe. They are a fantastic group to work with. Without them, none of these projects would be accomplished. We would also like to thank the Board of Trustees and the Board of Trust Governors. They have been extremely flexible and diligent in helping us address the many challenges that arise in caring for our historic Church and RE Buildings….thank you very much.

Submitted by

Joe Baker

Buildings and Grounds Committee

May, 2020