



EAST END UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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MARCH 2023 REBUILDING UPDATE

A Message From Pastor Brandon

Greetings my East End UMC friends in Christ,

As another month draws to a close and we head toward Easter, it is time for another monthly update from our Rebuilding Committee. We continue to provide these regular updates to keep you informed of the ongoing progress in this complex process. Many of you have begun to ask again, "When are we going to break ground?" As you know from our meeting in January and previous updates, we had sincerely hoped to have our FEMA funding in place so that we could sign the final contract with our builders and get started around April 2023. However, as with much in this process, the FEMA work is taking longer than expected. FEMA has asked for many additional documents that have taken time for our owner's rep, our architects, and our building committee to pull together. All of that work has been submitted, and we truly believe we are approaching the finish line with getting FEMA funds obligated. There could still be some back and forth between us and our FEMA liaisons in the coming month.

As you read the update below, I want you to rest assured that your Rebuilding Committee is working tirelessly to do everything in their power to keep this project moving forward. They are ensuring that everything is squared away on our end so that once the FEMA process is complete, we can move quickly. As difficult as it is to be patient after over 3 years of waiting, we must hold on just a while longer before we will see physical progress begin on the work site. However, if you could see all the work that is going on behind the scenes to bring our new worship space to fruition, I know you would be as impressed as I am. I continue to give thanks for the tireless work of our Rebuilding Committee and our hired professionals. We are indeed rebuilding and the work continues. May God hold us in love, grace, patience, and perseverance as we move ever closer to our return to Holly Street!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Brandon

Rebuilding Committee March Update

Since our last update, the Rebuilding Committee has continued to work with FEMA to move the project forward. FEMA is reviewing extensive documentation we have sent them and has sent us questions about, among other topics, the size, programmatic use, and occupancy calculations of the old building versus the new building. Our next scheduled meeting with FEMA staff is scheduled for 4/6, and we hope to clear this next hurdle in the FEMA process soon.

The permitting process also continues. East End's design team has received and addressed permit comments from every relevant Metro department, and the Committee has lobbied local officials to assist with permit approval. All departments have signed off on the permit except for Public Works, which is reviewing the revisions we made in response to their comments. The team will continue to check in with them regularly until approval.

We appreciate your patience and support as we navigate these lengthy (and lengthier-than-expected) processes.