

Church buildings

Original church, 1868-1959

Henry Searle, Rochester, NY, Architect

The original church, dedicated in 1866, was condemned in 1953. The trustees recommended that the building be sold and that the church relocate to the rapidly developing Washington suburbs. The congregation rejected this idea and voted to rebuild in the present location, continuing its downtown ministry in the nation's capital and affirming the church's presence in the city.



Second church, 1961-2007

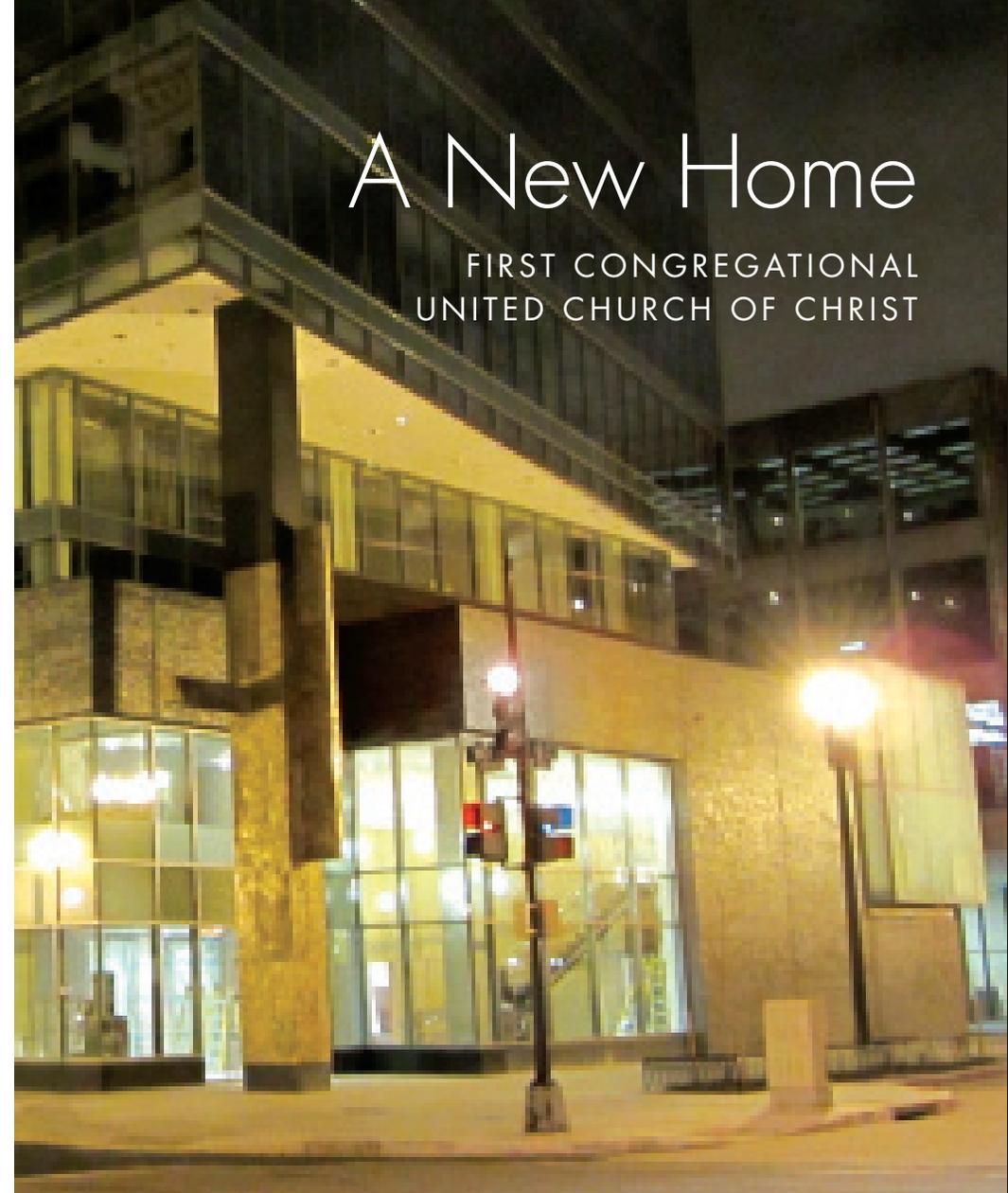
Milton L. Grigg, Charlottesville, VA, Architect

In 1961, the congregation built a new church featuring a carillon tower at the corner of 10th St. and G St., NW. During its 46 years, in addition to First Congregational, the building served as home to other congregations, the church-sponsored Dinner Program for Homeless Women (now Thrive DC), and complementary social service and meal programs.



Rebuilding at 10th and G, 2004-2011

In 2004, with a deteriorating building and a resurgent downtown, the congregation made the decision to redevelop the property by selling the air rights to a private developer in exchange for a new, accessible, green building designed to carry out our mission. The FCUCC Site Development Task Force organized and coordinated the extensive legal, design and financial tasks necessary to develop the project; and fostered an extraordinary partnership between the church and the developers, designers and builders whose skill, labor and commitment have made this project a reality.



A New Home

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

For more information, please visit www.FirstUCCDC.org or call 202.628.4317

First Congregational UCC, 945 G St., NW, Washington, DC 20001
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace, Multi-Cultural Multi-Racial Congregation

OWNERS/DEVELOPERS

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Skanska USA Commercial Development Inc.
PN Hoffman and Associates
E.R. Bacon Development

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

945 G STREET, NW, WASHINGTON, DC | A MIXED-USE BUILDING

CHURCH ARCHITECTS TOD WILLIAMS BILLIE TSIEN ARCHITECTS

BUILDING ARCHITECTS CUNNINGHAM | QUILL ARCHITECTS



Return to
10th and G

Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Service, 2011

First Congregational UCC was founded in 1865 by Congregationalists rooted in New England traditions. Led by Christian abolitionists, it was the first racially integrated congregation in Washington, DC. In 1867, the Mission Committee played a prominent role in the founding of Howard University. The UCC has roots in a “covenantal” tradition meaning that, in relationship with God and one another, we discover our beliefs, worship and way of faith. There is freedom in the UCC. All of God’s people matter. So we say, **“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”**

Our new home expresses our faith and our values.

We believe that God is the source of all creation, and that our human existence among all creatures of the earth is a marvelous blessing and an immense responsibility. We are inspired by the biblical message to care for the earth. Our church building reflects this value by adopting sound environmental practices.

The 188,000 square feet mixed-use church/office/restaurant building is designed to meet the criteria for the *U.S. Green Building Council Gold LEED* certification for environmental sustainability by:

- reusing and recycling 90% of the materials in the demolished church, including pews, brick, windows; and transplanting of mature plants and trees from the courtyard to new homes;
- locating close to excellent public transportation;
- storm water quality and management on site;
- high energy efficient glass assemblies;
- floor plates with natural daylight;
- variable air volume (VAV) box systems in the typical office space;
- water economizer in the mechanical system;
- low flow faucets, waterless urinals, and low flow flush toilets;
- new products from recycled materials;
- sustainably harvested wood; and
- 6,195 square feet of green roof.

We seek to radiate the light of truth and justice, and to celebrate the Creative Spirit we find in the message and presence of Jesus Christ. Our church building emphasizes light.

- Two large light box lanterns, an interior light well, and many windows bring light into the building. At night, the lanterns radiate soft light out from the building.
- Pendant and recessed lights in the narthex and sanctuary suggest the celestial realm.

We invite all people to join us in worship, fellowship, and service to others. Our church building at Metro Center joins the life of the city at the sidewalk.

- The tobasil bronze column sculpture at the corner of 10th and G makes our church visible and easy to locate.
- Two massive wooden doors open from the narthex into a stunning column-free sanctuary space that houses a Casavant pipe organ and sophisticated AV equipment.
- A still pool in the narthex signifies baptism and water as sustainer of life.
- Universal design provides full access throughout the building. An open staircase and elevator in the middle of the building connect all parts of the church.
- 24,000 square feet of church space can accommodate small worship services, personal meditation, meetings, celebrations, concerts and community functions.
- Classrooms provide a beautiful learning environment for children and teens.
- A small pocket park can exhibit large outdoor sculptures by local artists.
- Context-sensitive building design and materials honor the neighboring historic landmark Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe.