

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

945 G Street NW Washington, DC 20001

## *Church Architects*

Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects

## *Building Architects*

Cunningham | Quill Architects

### **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 the creatures of the earth is a marvelous blessing and an immense responsibility. We are inspired by the biblical message to care for the earth.*

- The 188,00sf mixed-use church/office/restaurant building is designed to meet the criteria for the U.S. Green Building Council for Gold LEED certification for environmental sustainability by
  - Reuse and recycling of 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
  - Location 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
  - 6,195sf of green roof

**We seek to radiate the light of truth and justice, and to celebrate the Creative Spirit we find in the message of Jesus Christ.**

- 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 lights in the narthex and sanctuary suggest the celestial realm.

**We invite all people to join us in worship, fellowship, and service to others.**

- The tombasil bronze column sculpture at the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> 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.
- The 24,000sf 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.

**An Open and Affirming, Just Peace, Multi-Cultural Multi-Racial, Accessible to All, Congregation**