

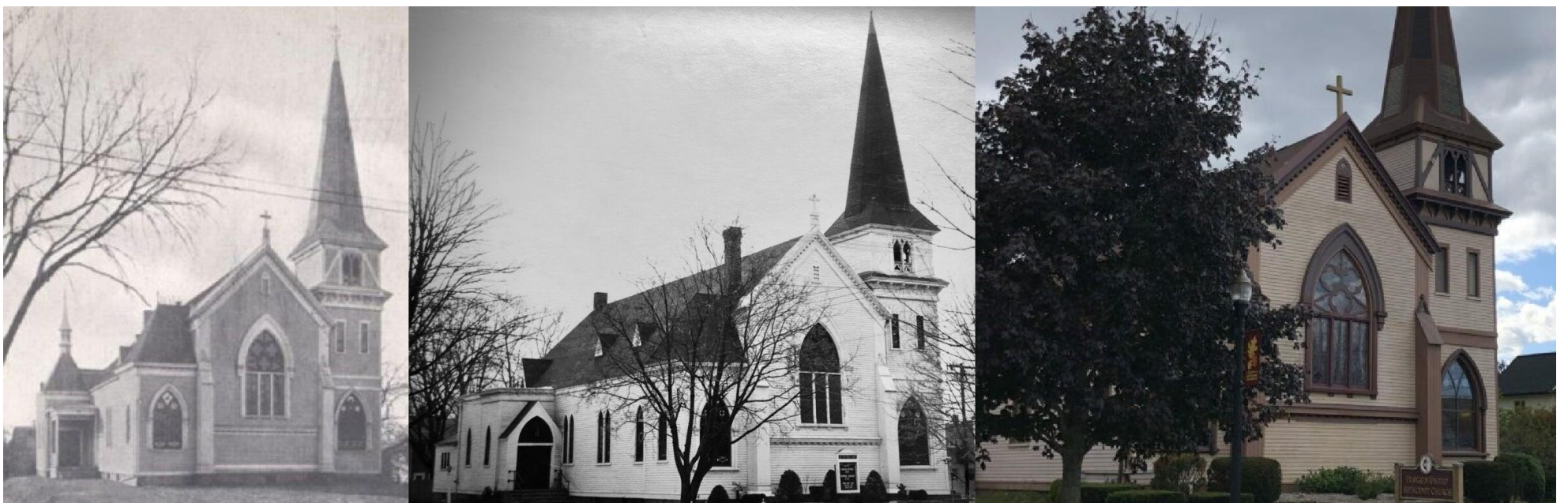
Defining Our Generation AND OUR FACILITY

The first Methodists gathered in the Franklin Town Hall, in 1853. Unfortunately, after just a few years, the class was discontinued. In 1871, the cause was taken up again, a pastor was appointed, and soon thereafter, in 1872, a building was constructed. It was dedicated on June 23, 1873. For over 170 years, each new generation of Methodists has had to recommit to the cause and give of themselves to sustain the church in Franklin. We stand as heirs to their dedication and hard work in establishing and maintaining the church. It has not always been easy, but each generation has been up to the task. Now it is our turn.

We seek to be “a community where all can experience meaningful relationship with God, grow in Christ, and reach out in love to others; a community where all can love and be loved; a community where people can be accepted as they are.” This vision propels us forward as we seek to give of ourselves for the sake of the community around us; however, the current state

of the building is limiting and creates several challenges. The roof needs to be replaced. The balcony and basement are underutilized spaces due to accessibility constraints. The HVAC system does not condition air nor does it circulate fresh air through the entire building. The kitchen, vestry, and bathrooms need to be updated. Financial reserves must be established to support future ministry and facility needs. Our commitment to addressing these issues will not only define our generation, it will also impact the many generations of Franklin Methodists yet to be.

Now is our time to rise to the challenges of our day. Now is our opportunity to honor the sacrifices of our spiritual forebears by rededicating ourselves to the cause so that a new generation can learn to love God, love neighbor, and be the church



2019-2023

Defining Our Generation AND OUR FACILITY Phase I

For over 150 years, our facility has been a place where people have gathered to nurture a meaningful relationship with God and grow in Christ. It is a place from which generations of faithful Methodists have reached out in loving concern to others.

From 2019-2023 we responded to several major issues with our facility that caused disruptions to worship and threatened our ability to serve others. By the grace of God and the generosity of past members, we have been able to address all of these issues and make plans for future renovations and restorations which will help ensure that future generations of Methodists will have 1) a place to worship and 2) a well-appointed building from which they can serve others.

MAJOR REPAIRS & IMPROVEMENTS

- Fire Alarm Testing & Emergency Light/Sign Upgrade (\$5,360)
- Organ Repair—swell, 8' diapason (\$2,800)
- New Boiler (\$22,175)
- Bathroom Vanity (Basement) & Plumbing Repair (\$1,878)
- Main Sewer Line Repair (\$12,475)
- Securing the Basement / Door Locks (\$3,259)
- New Roof (\$63,000)
- Insulate Attic & Crawl Space (est. \$10,000)
- Update Sanctuary Lighting to LED (est. \$1,500)

PREPARING FOR PHASE II+

- Architectural Design (\$10,700)
- Capital Campaign Consultant (\$21,500)

\$154,647

TOTAL COST OF PHASE I

2023-2026

Defining Our Generation Phase II

AND OUR FACILITY

Buildings within the United Methodist tradition are consecrated for the worship of God and the service of all people. Phase II seeks to restore and renovate the primary gathering space in the facility so that the congregation and community can gather safely and the building can be used for its consecrated purpose.

Phase II will focus on the renovation of the sanctuary, updating the fire protections systems for the entire building, and increasing the endowment.

Acoustic tiles in the sanctuary are beginning to sag and fall. The carpet needs to be replaced. And, improvements need to be made for the accessibility and flexibility of the worship space. The fire alarm is outdated and, in order to safely gather expanding numbers of our community, especially in the lower-level, a sprinkler system needs to be installed. The final focus of this phase looks to increase the endowment so that the church can generate perpetual, long-term revenue to sustain the church’s mission and vision.

Phase II focuses on making our facility more comfortable and viable in the 21st century for its consecrated purpose: worship and the service of all people.

SANCTUARY RENOVATION

- Organ Protection
- Repair Sanctuary Ceiling
- Restore Sanctuary Floor
- Replace Carpet in Chancel, bell tower (main-level), and front library/office

VESTRY RENOVATION

- Restore Vestry Floor

INCREASE ENDOWMENT

PREPARING FOR PHASE III

- Architectural design and drawings for Phase III
- Lot Survey and Plot Plan

UPDATE FIRE PROTECTION

- Update the Fire Alarm System, including a New Main Panel to be moved to the mechanical room.
- Install Sprinkler System throughout the facility

\$369,314

TOTAL PROJECTED COST

- \$ 15,000 Refinish Floors & New Carpet (Countryside Flooring)
 - \$ 13,000 Organ Protection (Foley-Baker, Inc.)
 - \$ 35,600 Restore Sanctuary Ceiling (Painter’s Pride)
 - \$ 3,500 Securing & Shortening of Pews (Anthony J. Pisani)
 - \$ 34,000 Architectural Drawings for Phase III (Rodenhiser Architects)
 - \$ 50,000 Increase Endowment/Reserves (Franklin UMC)
 - \$ 12,500 Lot Survey and Plot Plan (DGT Associates)
 - \$ 13,525 Engineer for Sprinkler System (Engineering Fire Protection, LLC)
 - \$ 87,842 Sprinkler Installation (Elite Fire Suppression)
 - \$ 4,000 est. Organ Protection for Sprinklers (Foley-Baker, Inc.)
 - \$ 33,775 est. New Water Main for Sprinkler (Elite Fire Suppression)
 - \$ 13,800 Additional Architect Fees for Existing Building Report required by the Building Inspector for Sprinklers (Rodenhiser Architects)
 - \$ 18,214 Sprinkler Install Overage (Elite Fire Suppression)
 - \$ 34,558 Fire Alarm Upgrade Overage* (Aslan Electrical, Inc)
- *\$14,000 covered under Phase III Construction Costsconstruct



The photo above is of the sanctuary decorated for Christmas 2022.



On July 1, 2023, a large section of ceiling tile failed leaving a large hole in the sanctuary ceiling (see photo to the left).



The sanctuary was closed in July 2023 and remained closed through the end of 2023. Christmas 2023 was celebrated in the vestry (photo of communion table and tree to the right)

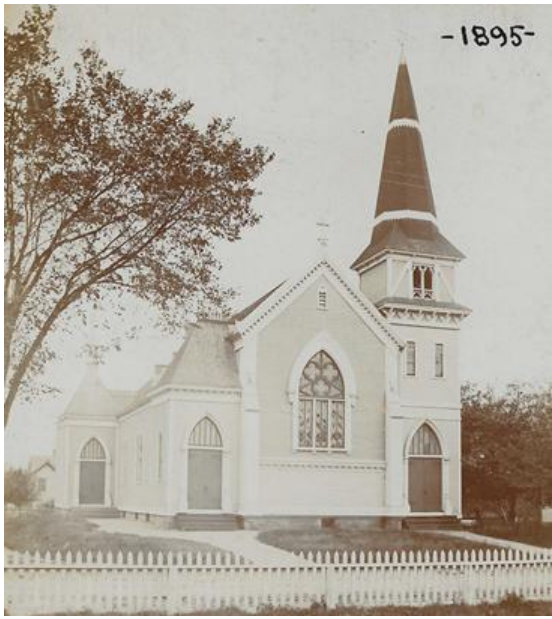


The photo below was taken on November 14, 2025.



Community Preservation Fund Grant

AWARDED JULY 2025



The photo to the left is the oldest known photograph of the Methodist church in Franklin. It was taken in 1895.
The photo below is taken from the Souvenir Programme published for the “Jubilee Mortgage Burning” on April 8, 1901.



The colorized postcard (to the left) has a by-line for Alfred C. Mason, no. 11297. Based on historical records, this picture dates post-1903 after the installation of the memorial stained-glass windows, and before ca. 1920 when the church was painted entirely white.

Thank you to the
 **TOWN of FRANKLIN**
MASSACHUSETTS
for this preservation award!

The historic Methodist church, located at 82 West Central Street, with its distinctive Victorian Gothic architecture and its long tradition of community service, is a landmark in the heart of downtown Franklin. Built in 1872-1873, the church is listed as a significant architectural asset of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (MCRIS No. FRN.336). It is the oldest church facility in the Town of Franklin to still be used by its original congregation.

The Franklin UMC is undertaking a major effort to preserve and restore the building’s exterior, ensuring that this historic treasure continues to stand with dignity and enrich the Town of Franklin for future generation.

This restoration project focuses on the exterior façade, safeguarding architectural features that define the building’s historic identity. Work includes:

- Restoring original Victorian Gothic trim and millwork.
- Repainting the building in historically appropriate colors, based on archival photos and early colorized images.
- Reconstructing the long-lost cupola, once a defining feature overlooking West Central Street.
- Restoring roof cresting, an ornamental railing visible in early photographs but removed decades ago.

On July 23, 2025, the Franklin Town Council, at the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, approved \$100,245 of the Town of Franklin’s Community Preservation Funds to support this restoration project, additional funds are needed to pay legal fees for drafting the required deed restriction, *and* restoration of cupola and gilded cross.

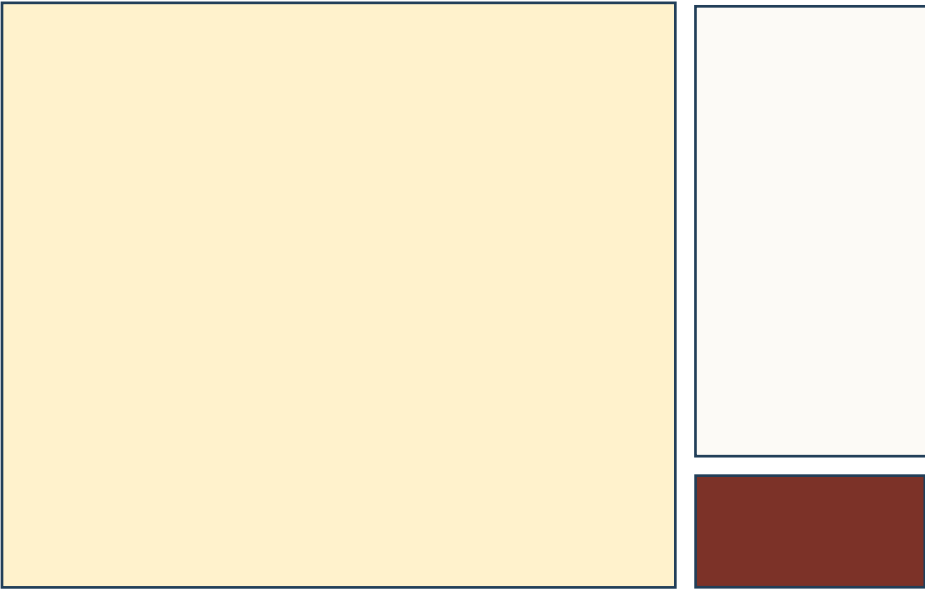
Below are baseline photos taken on April 8, 2026 for Mass Historical.



\$110,245
TOTAL PROJECTED COST

\$105,245 Exterior Restoration (Painter’s Pride)
\$ 5,000 est .Legal fees for Deed Restriction
(Doherty, Dugan, Cannon, Raymond & Weil)

Below are the approximate historical colors for the church’s exterior.



2025-2026 Defining Our Generation AND OUR FACILITY Phase III

In its 150-year history, the Methodist church in Franklin has only seen one major expansion. A century ago, the church added new classrooms and a kitchen to the rear of its 1870s structure, enhancing its educational programs and fellowship opportunities. With Phase III and Phase IV, the church aims to achieve similar goals.

The current facility struggles to meet the standards set by the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The classrooms are cramped, there are not enough bathrooms, and the lower-level is not air-conditioned, has poor air-flow, and is excessively damp in spring and fall.

Phase III will radically update the church's infrastructure: expanding the footprint of the building to include ground-level entry, a lift, and a new church office; renovating the lower-level with upgrades that will make it more welcoming and functional for education in the 21st century; adding two new multi-use rooms to the main-level; and expanding the HVAC system to improve air quality and control moisture in the lower-level.

In July of 2025, the Franklin UMC finalized a long-term partnership with Aprende Spanish Immersion. Construction for Phase III began in January 2026 with an anticipated completion in July 2026.

These exciting changes will provide a beautiful, modern and expanded space for education and community that is fully accessible on both the lower- and main-levels of the facility.

This phase is being funded primarily through a long-term lease agreement with Aprende Spanish Immersion.

LOWER-LEVEL RENOVATION

- Renovate to meet current Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) standards
- Install a sink in each classroom
- Create two restrooms that meet Americans with Disability Act (ADA) standards
- Increase Storage Space
- New HVAC for Lower-Level and new addition, to include dehumidification and air-conditioning.

NEW ENTRYWAY

- Create ground-level entry into the building
- Install lift to lower-level and main-level to meet Americans with Disability Act (ADA) standards
- New HVAC, including dehumidification and air-conditioning in new entryway and new Main Office.

MODIFIED MAIN-LEVEL

- Create two new multi-use rooms off the Vestry
- Create a new Main Office overlooking the New Entryway
- Move the Pastor's Office adjacent to the Sanctuary

PREPARING FOR PHASE IV+

- Architectural design for Phase IV and beyond
- Rough-in plumbing for kitchen and bathrooms in Phase IV+

\$470,616

TOTAL PROJECTED COST

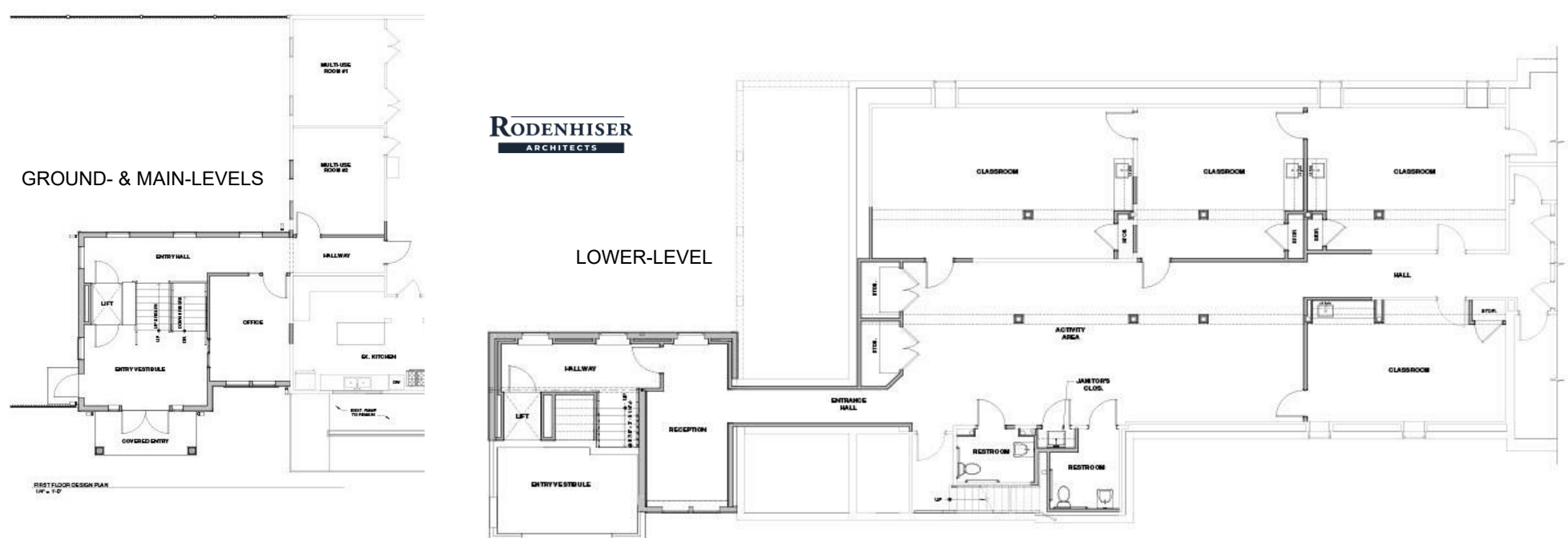
\$428,616* Phase III Construction (General Contractor: Capitol Roofing, Inc)

\$ 7,000 est. Flooring & Interior Paint (Franklin UMC)

\$ 35,000 HVAC Overage (Rodenhiser Home Services)

**not included are interest payments on the Construction Loan during construction.*

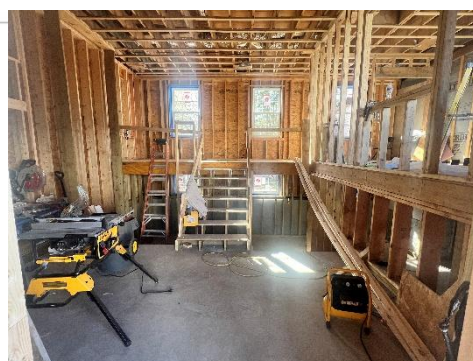
THE PRELIMINARY DESIGNS BELOW WERE APPROVED BY CHURCH COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 10, 2024.



Ground was broken for the new addition on February 12, 2026.



A progress picture of the new addition on March 7, 2026.



A progress picture from inside the new addition on April 23, 2026.



A progress picture of the new addition on June 15, 2026.

Greater Milford Community Health Network

CHNA-6 Grant

AWARDED MARCH 2026

Thanks to a generous, \$75,000, grant from the Greater Milford Community Health Network: CHNA-6, the Frankin UMC is renovating its outdated 1930s kitchen into a fully licensed, community-centered commissary kitchen that will become a hub where healthy food, collaboration, and compassion come together to strengthen our town and the surrounding communities.

The Community Kitchen @FranklinUMC will help expand access to nutritious meals, support local nonprofits, and empower small food businesses that currently lack affordable commercial kitchen space. With modern equipment, a fire-suppression system, and a layout designed for high-volume food preparation, this shared kitchen will dramatically increase our community’s capacity to feed neighbors in need.

The Community Kitchen @Franklin UMC will be for the entire community: nonprofits, civic groups, culinary entrepreneurs, seniors, students, and anyone seeking connection, purpose, or a good meal shared with neighbors.

The Franklin UMC has committed to cover all additional costs, above and beyond the CHNA-6 grant, related to the renovation of the kitchen.

KITCHEN RENOVATION

- Updated Plumbing, including new external grease trap, and Electrical
- New Casement Windows
- New Flooring, Walls, and Ceiling
- Stainless Steel Work Counters and sinks
- New Commercial Appliances Refrigerator, Freezer, Stove, Warmer/Proofer, Dishwasher, and Ice Machine)

PREPARING FOR PHASE IV

- Architectural drawings for kitchen renovation and Phase IV.

\$94,800

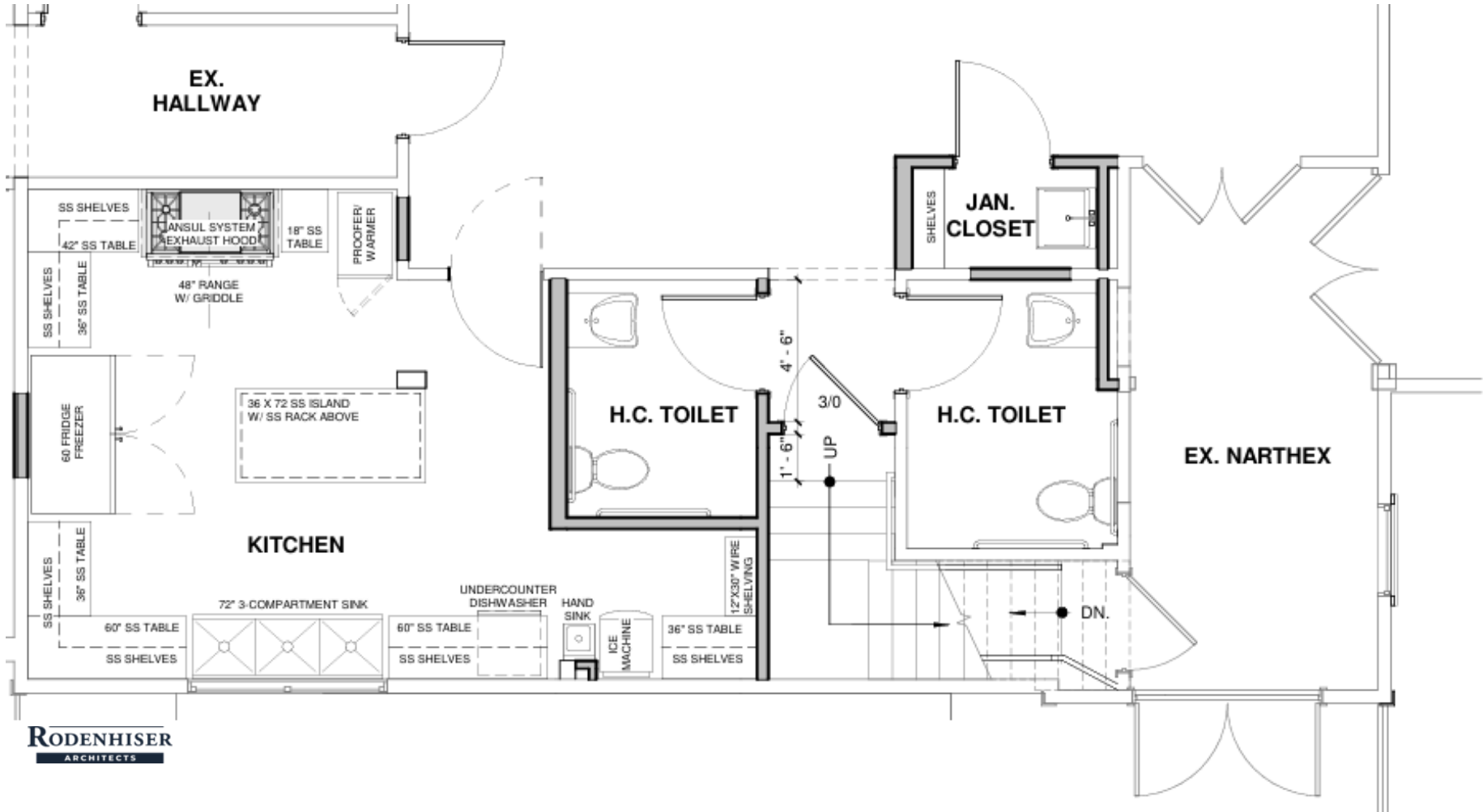
TOTAL PROJECTED COST

\$ 9,800 Architectural Drawings for Phase IV & Kitchen (Rodenhiser Architects)
\$ 60,000 est. Construction Costs (General Contractor: Capitol Roofing, Inc)
\$ 25,000 est. Commercial Appliances & Stainless Steel Counters (Franklin UMC)

Pictures (below) of the existing kitchen taken on June 16, 2026.



THIS DESIGN WAS REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY KEY LAY LEADERS AND COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS AND IS PENDING REVIEW BY THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN BOARD OF HEALTH



Defining Our Generation ^{TBD}Phase IV

AND OUR FACILITY

Phase IV focuses on renovating the existing main-level restroom and adding a second main-level restroom, both ADA compliant. The absence of ADA-accessible restrooms on the main-level, where the sanctuary and community room (vestry) are located, has become an urgent and increasingly visible barrier as other accessibility improvements have been completed. Addressing this inconsistency is essential to ensuring that our primary gathering spaces are welcoming, functional, and inclusive for all.

As the Franklin UMC looks to more fully utilize all parts of its facility, accessibility to the second-floor is a concern. Adding a stair-lift will make this currently unused space accessible.

Completing these upgrades is integral to the long-term preservation and use of the facility, strengthening the building's capacity to serve the community. Full accessibility of all levels of the church makes the facility viable for future generations.

Pictures of the existing bathroom (bottom left), side entryway (middle-left), stairwell leading to second-level (middle-right), HVAC air handlers (bottom-right), and vestry (right). Taken June 16, 2026.

MAIN-LEVEL RESTROOMS

- Create two restrooms that meet Americans with Disability Act (ADA) standards
- Add a hallway so that restroom entry is not in the vestry

RENOVATE STAIRWELL

- Renovate stairwell leading to second-floor

INCREASE THE ENDOWMENT

- Increase Permanent Endowment to at least \$100,000



Defining Our Generation ^{TBD}Phase V

AND OUR FACILITY

Phase V focuses on strengthening the spaces where community happens. Renovating the community room (vestry), including addressing the sagging ceiling, improving lighting, and updating seating, will create a warm, flexible space for everything from fellowship after worship to milestone celebrations, meetings to community meals. Updating the side entry will improve accessibility and allow multiple activities to take place in the building at the same time, making the facility more welcoming and functional for all who use it. The current HVAC system was salvaged from a retired cell-tower control room. It needs to be updated to deliver conditioned and fresh air to all parts of the main- and second-levels of the building, including the Sanctuary, Community Room, Kitchen, Pastor's Study, and Balcony area. These improvements strengthen the spaces where relationships grow, ministries flourish, and our community finds welcome.

SIDE ENTRYWAY

- Replace doors from entryway to sanctuary with a single 15-light French-style door.
- Replace doors from entryway to the vestry with double, 15-light French-style doors
- Replace exterior doors
- Replace flooring

VESTRY/COMMUNITY ROOM

- Renovate/Replace Sagging Ceiling
- Update Lighting
- Replace Windows
- Add a Coatroom or Coat Closet
- Purchase new round tables and chairs for Fellowship/Community Meals

HVAC & AIR QUALITY

- Update HVAC on Main Floor & Second Floor to include circulation of fresh air into facility.

INCREASE THE ENDOWMENT

- Increase Permanent Endowment to at least \$150,000

Defining Our Generation Phase VI+ AND OUR FACILITY

Rev. Robert M. Durkee, who served as pastor of the Franklin Methodists from 1954-1956, once wrote that “Every generation is the heir to those who have gone on before them. And so too, every generation in some way determines [sic] the lives of those who come after them.” While the future holds many unknowns, we understand that our actions today can pave the way for future generation to take bold steps of faith, continuing the legacy we proudly uphold.

Our vision propels us into the future as we seek to be a community where all can experience meaningful relationship with God, grow in Christ, and reach out in love to others. We seek to build a community where all can love and be loved, and where everyone (even you!) can be accepted as you are.

Through our Community @Franklin UMC and Community Kitchen @FranklinUMC programs, we strive to adapt our outreach efforts to meet the needs of the community around us, to strengthen it by providing opportunities for friends and neighbors to meet, serve, and share with one another. The future possibilities of what we might become are endless so long as we do our best in these moments to be faithful, to embody the love of God found in Jesus Christ.

Phase VI+ and beyond will continue the work of Phases I-V and further define our generation by equipping our facility to be a hub of community activity, a place not only of spiritual growth but communal development as well, a place where people connect with and support one another, a place where they can both worship and serve the entire community around them.

We pray that God will make us brave to respond faithfully in this moment for the sake of those who will come after us. We pray that God will guide us to meet the new opportunities that await us with courage, love and a resolute faith.



FUTURE PROJECTS

EXPAND & MAINTAIN ORGAN

- Install Chimes Stop
- Install Mixture Stop
- Install Zimbelstern

RESTORE SIDE ENTRYWAY

- Move doors to original, street-facing position
- Restore hip-style roof and install cupola/spire
- Install new ADA compliant ramp and stairs facing W. Central Street

UPDATE A/V SYSTEM

- Upgrade Public Address (PA) System and hide wires
- Upgrade Microphones
- Purchase a second PTZ camera and camera controller
- New monitors/projectors for sanctuary and vestry
- Install secondary PA system in vestry that links with PA in sanctuary

PARKING LOT

- Repave the Parking Lot and install granite curb
- Add new signage for handicap, visitor, and 15-minute school pickup parking spots
- Add exterior lighting
- Add public benches
- Add bike racks

NEW OUTSIDE STORAGE

- Build a new storage shed with garage door
- Run electricity to shed/garage
- Consider a carport space for shaded, outside functions

NEW ROAD SIGNAGE

- New granite posts
- Space for building user logos
- Electronic message board

RESTORE BALCONY (RENOVATE SENCOND-LEVEL)

- Open up second-level to sanctuary for overflow, choir, or orchestra seating
- Create designated A/V Booth
- Create flexible space; and/or, 2 new multi-use rooms; and/or, multiple new offices and storage spaces

MOVE TOWARD NET-ZERO

- Install solar panels to offset electrical usage and supplement the electrical grid
- Install onsite battery backup for the facility
- Consider an EV charging station