

REACH and RENEW RECAP

Front steps demolished in preparation for renewal



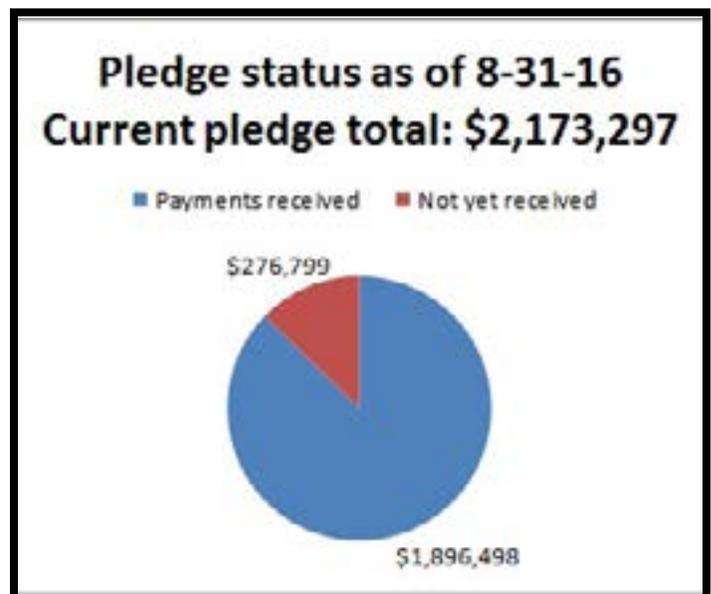
Left: In mid-July, heavy equipment arrived to demolish the crumbling front steps of the church. Until the work is completed later this fall, the front doors will be off limits to everyone except the workers themselves, and the only building entrances open are Lathrop Street, University Avenue, and Garden. The new steps will include handrails for safety, plus a ramp offering accessibility from Breese Terrace for the first time, as well as a convenient place for cars to pull over while dropping off passengers.

The Reach and Renew Campaign at First Congregational United Church of Christ of Madison is a five-year initiative (2011-2016) to renew our health, renew our hospitality, and renew our home.

Reach and Renew efforts will now continue beyond 2016 as a result of a congregational decision to borrow funds to fulfill remaining R&R projects, in addition to other repairs needed in the building.

Yellow caution tape currently blocks the front doors of the church while work proceeds on the project. The new steps, ramp, and drop-off lane will provide a much more aesthetic and welcoming face to the wider community.

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Preserve our past. Inspire our future.

The Reach and Renew Campaign seeks to **renew our health** by focusing on the congregation's worship, missions, and programs; to **renew our hospitality** by encouraging the use of our space by outside groups; and to **renew our home** by making upgrades in our building. The current project is renovation of the front steps.



Above: Before the concrete truck arrived on August 18, workers mounted protective plastic on the front doors and carried reinforcing mesh to the top landing. Below: Maneuvering carefully, the truck poured concrete into a wheelbarrow, which was used to carry many loads to each section of the landing, covering the reinforcing mesh.



At right: On September 2, workers slathered the steps with steaming, tar-like rubberized asphalt, followed by protective mats meant to stave off water damage.

