

THE ROAD TO RESTORATION

In 2009, St. Paul's Episcopal Church embarked on an ambitious restoration project. This 80 year old church community wears its' history proudly. The congregation formed the "Protect, Repair, and Restore" team, which consisted of multiple committees each charged with executing a distinct project component. Targeted areas included interior painting, pew and floor restoration, electrical and lighting upgrades, ADA improvements, acoustical improvements, and a major pipe organ restoration.

St. Paul's hired Teevan to collaborate with them and design, develop, plan, manage, and execute the restoration of their church. Over the next two years, with the unfailing contributions and support of the "Protect, Repair, and Restore" team, Teevan worked with the church's tight budget to develop a scope of work that addressed first the deferred maintenance needs and then as many items as possible on the "restoration wish list."

Teevan was initially approached about painting the interior of the church. After meeting with the chair of the painting committee, inspecting the building, and learning more about the church's restoration plans, four issues were identified that were going to present significant challenges to the success of the restoration: (1) the building exhibited signs of water infiltration that, if not addressed, would ruin a new paint job and continue to degrade the structure; (2) cracks in the walls indicated potential seismic/structural problems; (3) the church was approaching restoration as a series of distinct projects that could be planned, managed, and executed independently. We know through experience that because complex restoration has so many interdependent and interconnected moving parts, successful execution requires a unified vision, a comprehensive plan, and someone to hold it all together; and (4) without creative problem-solving and scope refinement, the church's budget was not large enough to accomplish everything they wanted and needed.

Through the creative collaboration of the Protect, Repair and Restore team, and Teevan, we were able to help the church maximize the reach of their funds, for example: (1) An enthusiastic volunteer staff restored the pews which allowed more money to go towards other items that needed professional craftsmen; (2) Through careful inspection of the church during scope development, we developed cost saving repair solutions that avoided more expensive replacement, such as; repairing the roof ridge cap and valley flashings and sealing wall penetrations and exterior failures and (3) Teevan's creative use of a hand-applied lime wash technique perfectly mimicked the look of stone block. This procedure was significantly more attractive than painting and also significantly less expensive than a full stone restoration.

After two years, St. Paul's Restore and Renew Project is complete—three weeks ahead of schedule and on-budget. The church is water-tight, well-lit, and looks and sounds breathtakingly beautiful. It is not the slightest exaggeration to say that every single individual involved in the project is thrilled with both the process and results of the past two years. We are incredibly proud of our work and our relationship with this congregation.

