

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



The Memorial Church Construction Project Frequently Asked Questions

1) What construction work will be undertaken with this project?

The Memorial Church Construction Project will focus on three main areas of work:

- **Long-deferred building and infrastructure maintenance**, including accessibility and safety compliance upgrades;
- **A reconfigured lower level** that enhances and supports the teaching and programmatic mission of the Church and the University;
- **A new climate control system** (HVAC — heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) for the upper and lower levels that will allow for more comfortable, year-round use of the Church.

2) Why is this construction project happening now?

The Memorial Church recently developed a new mission statement to guide the programs and vision of this historic institution.

The Memorial Church of Harvard University is a space of grace in the center of the Yard, rooted in the good news of Jesus Christ. Affectionately known as “MemChurch,” we pursue partnerships within and beyond Harvard, empowering community members to serve the world as well-informed, compassionate, moral citizens. Through worship and ministry outreach, MemChurch aims to promote justice and mercy by confronting life’s challenges, differences, and our own imperfections with courage, empathy, and an ethic of love. By doing so, the Memorial Church seeks to educate minds, expand hearts, and enrich lives.

The Church welcomes thousands of visitors each year for many purposes, including Memorial Church services and programs; Commencement and other notable Harvard events for students, faculty, and staff alike; those who come to honor the memory of Harvard veterans and history; life occasions such as weddings and memorial services; vigils and other community events; and much more.

Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister Jonathan L. Walton envisions the Church as open, inviting, and belonging to the entire community. “We have a saying at the Memorial Church — everyone may not belong to MemChurch, but MemChurch belongs to everyone. As such, we have a moral imperative to make the Memorial Church building more accessible and welcoming for all,” says Professor Walton.

The Church currently has air conditioning only on the lower level, which has meant that the main sanctuary can be uncomfortable for summer events. A new climate control system will be installed that

will bring air conditioning into the sanctuary, allowing for year-round use of the space. We're working to ensure that the project will meet Harvard's Green Building Standards.

Because these necessary upgrades require vast portions of the lower level to be dismantled, the Church has an opportunity to reimagine these spaces to harmonize the open and inviting vision of the Church with an open, welcoming space that promotes collaboration and partnership. A new "student oasis" in the center of the lower level will support collaboration and learning with flexible, open spaces and technological upgrades that nurture fellowship, study, and hospitality.

3) What fundraising will the church pursue to support this project?

While the total project cost is still being determined, it will be financed, in part, through our demonstrated good stewardship of resources over the past several years and ongoing fundraising efforts.

4) What is the timeframe for the construction project?

Construction will begin immediately following May 2016 Commencement. We anticipate that the project will extend through the end of the year.

5) How will the construction project have an impact on Memorial Church's services, programs, and events?

The Church building will be closed for the duration of the project. Sunday worship will not be held over the summer months. Starting in the Fall Term, Sunday Worship will be held in the Knafel Center (Radcliffe Gym) in Radcliffe Yard and Morning Prayers will be held in Holden Chapel in the yard. More information will be forthcoming about locations for other Memorial Church events and programs.

6) Where will the Memorial Church staff relocate during the construction project?

The Memorial Church staff will relocate to the third floor of 44R Brattle Street for the duration of the project; this move will occur the week of May 9th.

7) What will the Church look like during construction?

The Church will be closed to the public for the duration of the project. A barrier will be erected around the outside perimeter of the Church.

8) How will the construction project affect life in the Yard and the surrounding buildings — especially classrooms and dorms?

Although there will be a barrier around the perimeter of the Church, clear pathways will be available for crossing through the Yard and accessing classrooms and dorms. The project will strictly adhere to Cambridge city noise and construction ordinances.

9) Will the Sanctuary, Appleton Chapel, or the Memorial Room be renovated?

The look and feel of the Sanctuary, Appleton Chapel, and the Memorial Room will not be altered except to provide greater accessibility and to perform necessary infrastructure and safety upgrades to these important community spaces.

10) Why is the church's lower level being renovated?

A large portion of the lower level will need to be dismantled to allow for the installation of the new HVAC system and other necessary infrastructure upgrades. This presents the opportunity to renovate our lower level space with more flexible, accessible, and welcoming spaces and technological upgrades to enhance and support the teaching and programmatic initiatives of the Church and the wider Harvard community. This will include a new "student oasis" to nurture fellowship, study, and relaxation, as well as provide a family-friendly environment, particularly to accommodate those with small children attending our services and programs.

11) Will the Memorial Church organs be affected by this project?

All necessary precautions are being made to ensure that the Memorial Church's organs are protected during the construction project.

12) Who is the architect and construction manager for the project?

Payette has been selected as the architect for the project. Elaine Construction has been selected as the construction manager for the project. Elaine has managed more than 100 construction projects for Harvard over the years.

13) How were the architect and construction manager selected?

A design review panel consisting of representatives from the Memorial Church, Harvard Planning and Project Management, the Offices of the President and the Provost, and outside advisors from the architecture industry carefully reviewed and selected the architect and construction manager through an RFP process during Fall Term 2015.

14) Who should I contact if I have any additional questions?

For additional information, please contact Harvard's Construction Mitigation Office:

- Phone: 617-496-0857
- Email: mitigation@csl-consulting.com
- Website: construction.harvard.edu/memorial-church

You can also sign up to receive weekly construction project updates by email; visit construction.harvard.edu/subscribe-weekly-updates to subscribe.