

Wesley United to get well deserved reinforcement

Written by Staff Writer

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Columbia, S.C. - The Richland County Conservation Commission and National Trust for Historic Preservation awarded preservation planning grants to Wesley United Methodist Church to hire Chao and Associates, Professional Engineers, to design stabilization repairs for the Church Sanctuary floor. The structural back of the Sanctuary, the wood frame structure, is termite eaten and fractured. With these grants, the Wesley United Methodist Church will continue to feed the homeless and host worshipers, community gatherings, and the Bethlehem Center, which offers alcohol and chemical dependency counseling, support for battered women, and a grandparent support network.

As a historically significant African-American congregation, Wesley United Methodist Church helps to explain the impact of religious segregation, especially within the Methodist denomination in Columbia. Instructed by Rev. I. DeQuincey Newman, Columbia Civil Rights demonstrators used the Church as a training center and rallying point. Designed by the highly regarded Columbia architect Arthur W. Hamby and built from 1910 to 1911, the Church was listed on the National Register in 2009 as an excellent example of the Late Gothic style with a high degree of architectural integrity.

Wesley United Methodist Church is located at 1725 Gervais Street, Columbia, South Carolina.