



SECURING OUR ROOTS

**Capital Improvement
Campaign
Emanuel Congregation**



Who We Are

With a growing vibrant membership of 400 families, Emanuel is an inclusive, diverse and community-oriented congregation, with a strong commitment to the Jewish traditions that serve as foundations for our daily lives. Our community is strengthened by the perspectives and experiences of all of us: from multi-generational Emanuel member families, to individuals new to Chicago, from families living in the city to those who travel miles to attend Emanuel, from interfaith couples, gays and lesbians, to anyone who seeks a warm and welcoming place to worship.

Our building is a beehive of activity seven days a week. We share our home with Chicago Jewish Day School, a 200-student (and growing) school, and Or Chadash, a 100-member gay and lesbian congregation. On week-ends and evenings, about 200 students are served by the Emanuel religious school, filling our rooms and spilling over into the blue house north of the building. We host programs sponsored by other Jewish organizations, serve as a City of Chicago polling place, and host meetings for non-religious Edgewater community groups. Emanuel supports our broader community, particularly its neediest residents, in numerous ways - including cooking meals at Inspiration Café, supporting Care for Real, The Ark, Maot Chitim, and holding regular blood donation drives - reflecting a commitment to active community service and support for social justice.

Our Home

The Lord said to Moses...“let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.” Exodus 25:8

Our Building is Our Foundation. The Emanuel building is the symbol and visible center of our commitment to each other and our community. Our physical home provides a memory of place: of our children attending religious school and celebrating their b'nai mitzvah, of being together for the High Holidays and second night seders, of singing, sewing, and cooking together, lighting hundreds of Chanukiot, watching Purim spiels, and listening to the Ham-It-Up Band. Our building is an important thread of continuity from one generation to the next. It is our spiritual and community home, helping us to build a Jewish foundation for present and future generations.

Investing in Our Building

Our home is over 60 years old. Key systems have surpassed their useful life. We have been functioning on a minimum expenditures strategy, with mostly volunteer labor and supervision, for many years. Given the seven-day-a-week use of the building, this strategy simply no longer works.

We possess an amazing lakefront location. We have no mortgage burden, and our predecessors had the foresight to build a solid, functional, and flexible facility. A new facility would cost \$15 - \$20 million, and we would have to relocate during construction. We therefore remain committed to revitalizing our existing building and investing the time and effort to undertake a series of significant capital projects.

During the past ten years we have engaged engineering and architectural firms to analyze and assess the building and its systems. With their recommendations, we have organized the present plan to replace and modernize certain of our building's infrastructure. The repairs that we plan to make will allow the building to continue to serve as our home and as the center of our energetic community. Through Securing Our Roots we will raise funds to overhaul our building and strengthen our roots. With our roots secured, we will be able to grow, to extend our branches toward the future, and to focus on the well-being of our community.



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Our Plan

We are seeking 100% participation, asking every member to make a meaningful financial contribution. With the support and commitment of the entire Emanuel community, we will be able to reach this goal. Together, we can Secure Our Roots.

Securing Our Roots

Phase I (Fall 2013/Summer 2014)

We plan to focus first on our most urgent needs. We will replace our original steam boilers and the heating and cooling equipment for Lederer and the Sanctuary. With space vacated by our existing chillers we will create an outdoor equipment storage space. We will also repair and replace the entire roof of our building. This initial work, once complete, will greatly improve the energy efficiency of the building, lower operating costs, and be more environmentally responsible.

Phases II and III (dates and priorities to be determined, 2-5 Years)

When phase I is complete we will move ahead with other critical repair and replacement projects. We have defined project scope descriptions and obtained budget pricing for installing more energy efficient lighting, modernizing the kitchen, replacing worn finishes in areas including the Sanctuary and women's first floor bathroom, re-purposing the chapel to be more flexible, replacing the remaining original windows with thermally insulated units, improving the insulation of our roofs, continuing to improve security, minor tuck pointing and masonry repair, and tackling some of the exterior site deterioration in our parking lot and sea walls. These projects will additionally increase the operational efficiency of our building and better support our programming.

Greening our Branches

Future (5 – 10 years) REQUIRING ADDITIONAL FUNDING (beyond \$1.5 million)

With our roots secured, in a stable building, we will be able to grow further, and to extend our branches toward the future. We will need to continue to improve our building to enhance the experience of our evolving community and programming. Our future goals include: improving Lake Michigan views and access, improving event and multi-purpose space, overhauling the entry lobby, and more.



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Frequently Asked Questions

How much money has been raised thus far? Are we seeking funds from outside the congregation?

We are grateful for the generous support of a select group of congregants, plus members of the Jewish community at large, who have supported Emanuel in the past, and who together have, during the quiet phase of the campaign, committed over \$650,000. Outside of Emanuel, we have investigated possible grant opportunities and submitted proposals to government and private foundations. We anticipate successfully raising funds through grants or saving funds through available incentives and rebates.

Were the cameras and outside lighting the start of the Securing Our Roots campaign?

In 2011, we obtained a federal grant that provided \$75,000 in funds for security enhancements. Upgrades included installation of exterior and interior security cameras, exterior lighting, and replacement of the southwest door and windows (by Rabbi Zedek's office). These measures, given national and world events, unfortunately, are important and necessary additions to ensure our safety.

Are the Recently installed windows in the chapel part of the Securing Our Roots campaign?

We received, as a donation, seven stained glass windows, discovered during the restoration of the Mayne Stage Theater in Rogers Park. An Emanuel member, as part of the donation, generously supplied funds to install the stained glass windows and to jump-start the Securing Our Roots campaign. We invite you to view the stained glass windows, which appear to be floating in a large window overlooking Lake Michigan. A vast majority of the donated funds are dedicated to the vital infrastructure repairs.

Do plans include green design or environmental sustainability?

One of the goals of the proposed systems replacements and repairs, is to become a better world citizen, lessening our carbon footprint. An energy audit has been completed, resulting in recommendations for improved energy efficient heating and air conditioning systems and lighting. To this end, we have received a grant to help pay a portion of the costs to install solar thermal rooftop panels, and we are continuing to seek additional funds for alternative energy systems. We selected engineering and architectural firms to aid our efforts, in part, due to their focus on energy efficiency and sustainability.

How can I contribute to Securing Our Roots? Can I make my gift over a number of years?

Gifts can be made by credit card or by check payable to Emanuel Congregation. For your convenience, pledge cards are available, and gifts may be paid over 3 to 5 years.

