

Renovation Update
October 7, 2021

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Every day the renovation project hits new milestones as geothermal wells are drilled, concrete is poured, walls and ceilings are removed, floors and ceilings are reinforced, an elevator shaft rises, and new ductwork is installed. Gradually, the look of a demolition site is giving way to the look of a new meetinghouse. We are blessed with great good fortune – an architect and contractor who are true partners in the creation of our new meetinghouse; skilled trades people who turn paper plans into buildings; Meeting volunteers who routinely take on tasks large and small that keep everything moving forward; and the financial resources necessary to create a facility that will serve the needs of our religious community and the secular community around us for many years to come.

Work in Progress

Well-loved Meetinghouse,
Cracked, charred joists; weak walls; tight stalls;
Shored up, Light's leading.

Renovation haiku
S. Kummer 10/3/21



During two weeks in September a drilling crew sank ten geothermal wells in our parking lot.



A network of pipes link the wells to the Meetinghouse.



Once the drilling rig finished its task and left the site, the construction crew paid close attention to grading the future parking lot.



A new external staircase took shape at the back of the building. These stairs provide an emergency exit route on the north side of the building and a quick way to travel between floors.



Ideal Builders is racing the weather to pave the parking lot before cold weather shuts down asphalt work. Mother nature seems to care little for construction timetables.



Next to the stairs the elevator shaft began to take shape.



As foundations were readied to support new walls, the mason laid the cement block of the elevator shaft.



This footing will support the foundation on the east side of the new First Day School classrooms.



The land around the Meetinghouse hints at the work going on inside. In this one picture are wooden studs for new walls, cement block for the elevator shaft, ductwork for the HVAC system, and steel beams to reinforce floors and ceilings.



All renovation projects include surprises. In the old furnace room a fire once damaged the floor joists under the northwest corner of the Meeting Room. A previous owner cut away the worst of the damaged wood but did not reinforce the joists. The charred beams were simply covered with a new ceiling. Ideal Builders addressed the problem by pairing (“sistering”) new joists with the damaged ones. By addressing a number of structural weaknesses during the renovation project, we are creating a building that will serve the Meeting for generations to come.



We can begin to see the new taking shape within the old. Where once stood the Sun Room, the Lobby now takes shape.



On the lower level, workers cut the opening that will soon provide access between the old FDS area and



In the Library, temporary 4 x 4 posts have been installed to reinforce the ceiling as preparations are made to take out a portion of the wall and create the double doorway between the Library and the new Friends Room.



and the new classrooms.



Renovation will have many benefits. Our architect has been particularly mindful of the low ceilings in the lower level. He has specified narrow ducts. The implications are clear in the Nursery. The old ductwork came to the top of the yellow wall. The new ceiling will be approximately 6 inches higher.

Every day brings new insights and new challenges. Please hold us all in the Light.