



Roof & Gutters and the Fall 2020 Special Appeal-- Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 11.3.20

The RRUUC staff and Board of Trustees have been aware of the aging roof on our original building and the inadequacy of the existing gutters for some time. In the spring of 2020, the RRUUC Building Committee notified the Board that it would be wiser, and more cost efficient over the long-term, to replace the roof and gutters on the original RRUUC building instead of continuing to patch holes in the roof. The patching was only delaying the inevitable need for roof replacement, the leaks were causing substantial damage to electrical and mechanical equipment, and the underlying structure was being adversely affected by the moisture. In June, the Board created the Capital Budget Planning Working Group (CBPWG) to “prepare a Capital Budget Plan which includes a schedule for annual capital expenditures for the RRUUC building and grounds and proposals for funding these expenditures” to ensure adequate upkeep and maintenance of the building. (See full resolution and members of the CBPWG [here](#), Item #5 of the June Board Buzz.) Over the summer and fall of 2020, the CBPWG members met weekly to determine the immediate needs of the building and grounds, as well as possible solutions to the short and long term financing of these capital needs. (See initial report to the Board from CBPWG [here](#), Item #4 in the September Board Buzz.)

Q. Why does RRUUC need to replace the roof and gutters at this time?

- A. The roof has been leaking in some spots repeatedly and while patching the roof has worked in the past, the leaks were causing substantial damage to electrical and mechanical equipment, and the underlying structure was being affected by the water damage. The Building Committee feels that paying to patch the roof is ultimately going to cost RRUUC more money than replacing the roof.

Q. What will the total cost be to replace the roof and gutters?

- A. The Building Committee has a rough estimate of \$400,000-\$450,000 and is working with an engineering firm to determine the needed work on both the roof and gutters and to help develop a detailed RFP in order to ask for bids for replacing the roof and gutters on the original building. That RFP is expected to go out in January or February 2021 and upon receipt of bids we will have an exact amount for this project.

Q. How is RRUUC going to pay for this project in the near-term?

- A. The CBPWG is recommending payment of this project be accomplished by using a combination of existing reserves as well as new, project-specific fundraising through a special appeal to congregants.

Q. How do these expenditures and new debt affect the long-term financial health of RRUUC?

A. The CBPWG, which includes members of the RRUUC Finance Committee and our Treasurer, has been looking closely at RRUUC's financial picture and feels this two-pronged approach leaves RRUUC with enough in our reserves to cover potential shortfalls in revenue and to meet its obligations to programming and staff in the future while also meeting the needs of our building now.

Q. What is the expected timeline for this project?

A. The roof and gutter replacement is expected to take place in the spring of 2021 when bids will be complete and a contractor can be chosen. We have been advised that it is better to do roof replacement when the weather is not too cold.

Q. What considerations are being given to the aesthetics of the roof and gutters replacement project?

A. The contract with the engineering firm assisting in preparing the RFP for this project includes consideration of and respect for the architectural character of the existing building and the esthetic qualities of the materials used and final visual quality.

Q. What considerations are being given to putting solar panels onto our roof?

A. The Earth Ministry Committee is participating in the CBPWG process and is looking into the feasibility of putting solar panels on the new roof on the original building. We will assess that information when it is complete.

Q. What are the plans to ensure that adequate continued funding is budgeted for maintenance of our buildings and grounds?

A. The CBPWG is preparing recommendations to the Board to ensure long-term sustainable funding for capital investments in the building. These include an annual capital budget as part of the annual budget planning process, which ensures prioritization of capital investments. In addition, new funding sources are being evaluated to help increase annual revenue.

Q. How can I contribute to the roof and gutters project?

A. Thank you for asking! You can make a contribution to the roof and gutters project [here](#) and select "Fall 2020 Special Appeal" in the drop-down menu. If you prefer to send a check, please put "Fall 2020 Special Appeal" in the memo line and mail to RRUUC, 6301 River Rd, Bethesda, MD 20817.

For additional questions, please contact Stewardship@rruuc.org.