

## Historical Commission/2011 Annual Town Meeting

### HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH—CPA PROPOSAL (Article 20 A.7)



**Question:** How many communities have used CPA funds to rehabilitate a church or religious institution?

**Answer:** 38 Communities. The projects have ranged from archiving documents, restoration of steeples, restoration of stained glass windows, to complete building stabilization and rehabilitation. (Source: [http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/cpa\\_proj\\_view/sort\\_cpa.jsp](http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/cpa_proj_view/sort_cpa.jsp))

**Question:** Are churches eligible for other state and federal funding?

**Answer:** Yes. Churches are eligible to receive funds through competitive grant programs, such as the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund sponsored by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the Cultural Facilities Fund sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and a revolving fund sponsored by the 1772 Foundation.

**Question:** Is Hope Community Church a significant structure?

**Answer:** Yes. The church is recognized as a historically significant structure by the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Amherst Historical Commission. The church is also a contributing structure in the Prospect-Gaylord National Historic Register District. Hope Community Church is working toward the nomination of the structure as a National Historic Landmark.

**Question:** What public benefit is provided by Hope Community Church?

**Answer:** Hope Community Church provides the community with many benefits. It has retained its architectural character from the time of its construction in 1912, serving as a living museum for one of two traditionally African American churches in Amherst. The church provides ongoing in-service learning and is mentoring interns through the legacy of Dr. Norma Jean Anderson. The local community has regularly been invited to educational events and lectures. Some of the topics include slavery in the Pioneer Valley, stories of the New South Africa post-Apartheid and multicultural learning. For the last forty years, the church has been a philanthropic entity providing meals, clothes and monetary donations to charitable organizations locally and world-wide. The Church has given to Jessie's House, Safe Passage, The Mustard Seed Foundation, and to Joyce Meyer's Hand of Hope Outreach Ministries; space has also been provided for meetings (e.g., AA, NAACP) and for educational programs such as English as a Second Language.

**Question:** How urgent is this project?

**Answer:** The project is very urgent. Because the Church has not been significantly altered since its construction in 1912, its foundation and roof need serious restoration to prevent catastrophic structural failure.

**Question:** Is this project feasible?

**Answer:** Yes. The Church has developed a thorough plan for the structure's restoration, which includes cost estimates from professional consultants. Work on the roof and foundation is considered to be phase I of a multi-phased project that the Church is committed to complete.

