



Restoring Stained Glass Windows Oxford Presbyterian Church Seminary Building

The Oxford Presbyterian Seminary Building holds a rich history of our Presbyterian presence in Oxford. Built in 1838, this structure nourished a strong relationship with Miami University and the community which we hope will continue well into the future. The eleven stained glass windows which adorn the second level of the Seminary building are visual testimonials to much of our heritage. The current window restoration effort will ensure that we preserve these treasures of our past for the understanding and appreciation of future generations.

When Session approved funding for stabilization of the building in February, 2015 they additionally authorized the restoration of the stained glass windows. The cost of window restoration was to be covered through solicitation of donations. Fundraising began in April and by June the necessary funding of \$43,500 had been generated.

The restoration work is being accomplished by Beauverre Riordan Stained Glass Studios in Middletown, OH. Work began during the summer and should be completed by spring, 2016.

Stained Glass Window Restoration...*the process*

Each window is carefully removed from its frame by a team of removal specialists and transported to the Middletown studios where the detailed work of restoration will proceed. The schedule for this project is to remove and restore two windows at a time. Once those windows are completed and replaced, the restoration of two additional windows is addressed.



The studio restoration work is very detailed. The first task to be addressed is to make a full sized rubbing of the window which becomes a template for glass placement. The entire window is disassembled by removing each piece of glass from the lead came which holds the pieces together. The old lead came is discarded to be replaced by new leading. Pieces of glass are individually cleaned and glass that is broken or cracked is replaced. Pieces are reassembled using new lead came. Once reassembled, the lead came is soldered and putty is applied to all joints. The window is cleaned and wood frames are repaired as necessary, then primed and painted.



After the restoration is completed the windows are returned to the Seminary Building. The windows are re-installed and a covering of tempered glass is added to the exterior of the window for maximum protection. The next two windows are then removed for transport to the studio and the process continues.

Following completion of the restoration project, a brass plate will be added at the location of each window identifying the donor(s) and recognizing those whom they have chosen to honor.

The Oxford Presbyterian Church is currently at a crossroad between what we have been and what we can be in the Oxford community. The Seminary church has contributed significantly to the community as we have evolved and can continue to meet the needs of the community well into the future. These windows have served as silent witnesses to our proud past and will continue to watch over us as we commit ourselves to new challenges and grow into a new generation.