



**FRIENDS OF THE UNION MEETING HALL  
CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISING PRESS RELEASE  
HOEHL MATCH CHALLENGE**

The Friends of the Union Meeting Hall have been working diligently over the past year to secure early philanthropic support towards the essential revitalization and restoration of the Union Meeting Hall. Thanks to the generosity of donors across our community, state, and beyond, we have secured \$215,000 from philanthropic gifts, pledges, and grants towards our \$250,000 goal. These initial funds will cover key structural issues and code updates for the building in Phase One of the Facilities Plan, prioritized to ensure safe usage of the building.

In the fall of 2019 the Friends of the Union Meeting (FUMH) began working with the Town of Ferrisburgh to develop a Facilities Master Plan which helped to identify the most important projects that needed to be addressed at that Union Meeting Hall. Following the creation of the Plan the FUMH Board has been working diligently with our fundraising committee volunteers to develop a comprehensive fundraising plan.

Significant grants have been received from the Walter Cerf Community Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation, a Cultural Facilities Grant from the Vermont Arts Council, made possible by funding from the State of Vermont, a Paul Bruhn Grant from the Preservation Trust of Vermont made possible by funding from the National Park Service in partnership with the Trust, and a grant from the Hoehl Family Foundation. Additional support from generous private donors has also led to the success of raising the funds necessary to repair the roof trusses and add a permanent ADA ramp.

Additionally, Town funding has supported the restoration of the UMH steeple, updates to make the existing bathroom ADA compliant, an addition of a temporary ADA compliant entry/exit ramp, installation of exterior power outlets and water hookups for hosting events and lighted exit signs for safety. The total cost to fully realize the Facilities Plan will be roughly \$650,000.

In 1837 nineteen Ferrisburgh families representing five church denominations banded together to raise the money to build the Union Meeting Hall. Not only did these five church congregations share the hall for worship, but they also made it available for community gatherings. In the spirit of these original founders 185 years later we have been actively working over the past year on raising funds necessary to fully restore and rehabilitate the building so we can begin using the space for community events and programming.

To help us secure the remaining funds needed to surpass our \$250,000 goal, the Hoehl Family Foundation has pledged a dollar-for-dollar \$50,000 match to encourage our community to step up once again, just as the Founders did. This means, for every additional dollar raised the Foundation will give a dollar up to \$50,000.

To support our efforts we invite you to make a donation via credit/debit card by visiting [unionmeetinghall.org/donate](http://unionmeetinghall.org/donate). Checks may be mailed to PO Box 115 Ferrisburgh, VT 05456 payable to 'Friends of the Union Meeting Hall'. Thank you in advance for your support! For additional information on how to make a gift or to learn more about our volunteering opportunities please email [unionmeetinghall@gmail.com](mailto:unionmeetinghall@gmail.com).