



Major structural work to begin this spring at the Union Meeting Hall

A long list of much anticipated restoration projects is set to begin this spring at the historic Union Meeting Hall, bringing about a new era for the nearly 200 year-old building.

“These projects are almost four years in the making,” says Friends of the Union Meeting Hall President Ashley LaFlam. “We knew very early on that there were structural issues with the building, which is why the four structural towers were installed a number of years ago. We are excited to finally see the work completed and the towers removed”.

Projects will include the repair of the broken and rotted roof trusses, replacing broken slate roof tiles, repointing the historic chimneys and installing a new metal snow belt. In addition the sloping floors will be leveled, the steeple piers will be reinforced, and rotted exterior trim will be replaced and painted. The interior of the building will not be open to the public during construction. Weather permitting the repairs are set to be completed by August 2024

According to the contractor Miles Jenness of Vermont Heavy Timber “I first became interested in the Union Meeting Hall almost a decade ago, and am deeply excited to finally be bringing the restoration to fruition. The meeting hall is beautiful and has a storied history, and I’m honored to be a part of bringing the building back to its place as a gathering space for the community.” Jenness has spent the better part of last year working on rebuilding the trusses for Notre Dame. Per LaFlam “Miles shares a passion for repairing and restoring old buildings. He has been a great supporter of our journey and we know our building will be in good hands”

Once the projects are completed the Friends plan to hold a celebration to welcome the public back into the building. This work is supported in part by a grant from the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program from the Historic Preservation Fund administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior in partnership with the Preservation Trust of Vermont, by Senator Leahy as one of his Congressionally Directed Spending requests in the fiscal year 2022 Omnibus Appropriations bill as well as private philanthropic support. Questions? Email the Friends of the Union Meeting Hall at unionmeetinghall@gmail.com.