



Chubb Chapel United Methodist Church of Cave Spring, Georgia is one of two grant recipients in Georgia from a new national grant program.

Chubb Chapel United Methodist Church, one of the recipients of the Preserving Black Churches grant

“With support from the Lilly Endowment Inc., this project was funded by a grant from the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.”

Chubb Chapel United Methodist Church in Cave Spring, GA is among the 35 recipients of the first round of funding from a new national grant program designed to preserve historical black churches. Preserving Black Churches, an initiative sponsored by African-American Cultural Heritage Fund, is designed to assist historic Black churches across the country with restoring their buildings and maintaining their cultural legacies. “The intention of the program is to advance long-term and sustainable strategies that strengthen stewardship and asset management, interpretation and programming and fundraising activities for historic Black churches nationwide,” said Brent Leggs, executive director of the African-American Cultural Heritage Fund.

The \$20 million program is funded by Lilly Endowment, an Indiana-based foundation that supports religious, educational and community development projects. The first round of the program totals \$4 million. **Chubb Chapel will receive \$50,000 in capital project grants.**

Per the Atlanta Journal Constitution article by DeAsia Page, churches were chosen via a multi-phase evaluation system. Leggs said his team received more than 1,200 proposals over the past seven months. From there, 80 churches were chosen to submit grant applications, and 35 of those were selected as final recipients. Leggs said he wanted the program’s selection to highlight diversity of a church’s architecture and its background story — being intentional in not only choosing those associated with the civil rights movement.

Founded in 1870, Chubb Chapel United Methodist Church was built by the Chubb families, who came to Georgia from North Carolina in the 1830s and moved to Floyd and Polk Counties in the late 1850s and established Chubbtown, a self-sufficient Black settlement. The church is the only remaining building from the historic town. Grant funds will help address the building’s deteriorating features.

For more information on the Preserving Black Churches initiative, visit savingplaces.org/blackchurches. For information on Chubb Chapel, visit chubbtown.org.