



SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Rev. Craig Cowing, Pastor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SOUTH CHURCH OF NEWPORT SELECTED FOR LCHIP GRANT

NEWPORT, NH — New Hampshire's Land & Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) has chosen the South Congregational Church of Newport as recipient of a \$50,000 grant for historic preservation of the church's meetinghouse, a Newport landmark constructed in 1822 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In *New Hampshire Architecture*, architectural historian Bryant Tolles called this building "western New Hampshire's finest Federal style brick church." The preservation work focuses exclusively on exterior surfaces of the building, including the repair and painting of its "double-octagon" steeple, new flashing and roofing, masonry repointing, window and shutter renovation, and trim repair and painting.

The project is expected to cost \$160,000, with final completion targeted for 2011, the 250th anniversary of Newport's incorporation. Matching the LCHIP grant is \$50,000 drawn from the South Church Capital Reserve Fund.

With combined LCHIP grant and reserve funds of \$100,000, the church must now raise the remaining \$60,000 of the project cost through donations from church and community members. As incentive, an anonymous donor has offered to match each \$15,000 raised with an additional \$5,000.

Through its affiliation with the United Church of Christ, the South Congregational Church of Newport is a tax-exempt organization, and tax-deductible donations may be directed to Meetinghouse Preservation c/o South Church, 20 Church Street, Newport, NH 03773. More information is available at NHsteeples.org/newport.

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