

Fire Safety Proposal

The Situation

- Three NY Metro Area historic churches have burned down in the past year.
- Due to deferred maintenance and out-of-date systems, we need to make changes to First Unitarian's facilities to improve fire safety.
- First Unitarian's current fire alarm system is out-of-date and is unlikely to result in Fire Department response in time to substantially save the building.
- New fire detection systems exist that can detect fire sooner and suppress fire, thereby substantially increasing chances that First Unitarian can avoid the complete destruction that has been experienced by other historic NYC churches.
- The plan that is being proposed will give First Unitarian the specifications for a fire alarm system that can be presented to multiple companies in order to obtain the best installation proposal.

The Proposal

Installation of the following fire alarm systems:

- Air particle and detection fire alarm system in the high-ceilinged sanctuary and chapel
- Conventional fire alarm system in 48 and 50 Monroe Place buildings

An air particle detection system can detect smoke much sooner than our current alarm system, which is triggered by heat. This is most critical in our high-ceilinged spaces where heat is not able to reach and trigger the alarm until a fire is in an advanced state. An air particle detection fire alarm system is recommended by the National Fund for Sacred Places, the organization that we are applying to for a grant.

Estimated Cost

Item	Low Est.	High Est.
Assessment by a professional fire safety firm to determine the most effective fire alarm system for First Unitarian's buildings and any building changes needed to improve fire safety	\$ 15,000*	\$ 15,000*
Building changes to improve fire safety and obtain Fire Dept. certification	\$ 50,000	\$ 65,000
Installation of fire alarm system in all four buildings of the First Unitarian facilities complex	\$135,000	\$170,000
Contingency	\$ 25,000	\$ 50,000
PROJECT TOTAL	\$215,000	\$300,000

*Proposal already received.

Note: The Board will work with our Director of Facilities, Chris Johnson, and other staff to maintain and improve fire safety practices for all users of our facilities.