



GRACE
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Lara Kritzer
Community Preservation Program Manager
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

July 31, 2022

Re: Grace Church Bell Tower Restoration, Project Status Report No. 9

Dear Lara,

As a representative for Grace Episcopal Church Newton, I want to provide you this Project Status Report. This report covers July 2022.

In July, installation of internal steel reinforcements (post tensioned rings at three elevations) allowed Aniceto to move onto the reconstruction of the most damaged part of the structure – the cornice at the base of the spire, just above the bell loft. This reconstruction involved much repositioning of loose and misplaced masonry and the addition of new stone for the cornice including new dressed stone for decorative elements. John Wathne of Structures North and I participated in weekly meetings and made two on-site inspections in July to review Aniceto's careful work on this most dangerous section of the tower structure. Aniceto addressed the four sides of the tower by bracing, removing and carefully repositioning old stone, and setting new stone to match where existing stone was too damaged to reuse. Existing and new cornice stone were each individually secured to the interior brace with through-wall pin anchors. With this work, anticipated to be complete in August, the tower structure will be finally completely stabilized. Further work, below the cornice, while important, is essentially about restoration of the exterior for long-term durability and water tightness. This month and the next will be a watershed moment for the project.

See following pages for recent site photos.

I look forward to providing you with project updates each month and to your site on August 17th, as planned, to see the progress firsthand.

Sincerely yours,

Scott B. Aquilina, AIA
Tower Restoration Project Manager-Preservation Consultant-Junior Warden
Grace Episcopal Church

CC: John Wathne, Structures North Consulting Engineers
Paul Wong, Grace Episcopal Church
Paul Holtz, Massachusetts Historical Commission



Loose exterior masonry at base of spire was removed to expose the inner masonry wall.



Existing and new masonry at base of spire was set in place and anchored to the inner masonry.



Reconstructed base of spire incorporated extensive areas of new material to replace fragmented stone.



The Project Team: Contractor, Architect, Engineer



Next phase of work: pointing mid tower at Bell Loft



John Wathne, Principal Project Engineer