



## Third PTP Letter to The University of President about Historic St. Paul's

April 22, 2021

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Dr. Gary L. Miller, President  
 Office of the President  
 The University of Akron  
 Akron, Ohio 44325-4702  
[president@uakron.edu](mailto:president@uakron.edu)

Re: Historic St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Dear President Miller:

Thank you for your time and consideration concerning historic St Paul's. We recognize the fact that you are not aware of the history of St Paul's or responsible for the actions of previous administrations. We ask that you consider what could still be done at this moment in time; understand the meaning and importance these buildings hold for Akronites, the City's history, and good will that can be created by attempting to preserve them.

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### UPCOMING PTP MEETINGS

PTP will resume monthly meetings beginning in June 2021. However, due to the ongoing pandemic and the need to ensure our members' safety, all meetings through October will be held outdoors or have an outdoor option for those who prefer an additional precaution.

**June 21, 2021** PTP Annual Board Meeting—At Preservation House with catered dinner by A Moveable Feast. More information to follow about time, menu, and guest speaker

**July 11, 2021** 150th Anniversary of Hower House—indoor and outdoor options available. July 18th will be a rain date if necessary.

**Aug. 23, 2021** Annual PTP Picnic—Place TBD

**Sept.12, 2021** Dining in Akron History Fundraiser— indoor tours and outdoor dining. Sept. 19th will be a rain date if necessary.

**Oct., 2021** TBA

**Nov., 2021** Harriet Chapman presents Beautiful Fairlawn Heights: Historical Notes on an Idyllic Suburban Neighborhood. This meeting will be held indoors with the place TBD.

Letter to President Miller (continued)

We have reviewed Ohio House Bill 481. The enacted legislation is effective for three years. Further the legislation provides: "The deed for the conveyance of the real property described in division (A) of this section may contain restrictions, exceptions, reservations, reversionary interests, and other terms and conditions the Director of Administrative Services and the Board of Trustees of the University of Akron determine to be in the best interest of the state." Perhaps the Trustees could consider including restrictions in the sale of the property that would require a prospective purchaser to preserve the buildings so as to maintain the architectural heritage of the community.

It would be more effective, in terms of preservation, if the University would endorse a preferred preservation outcome and collaborate to guide that process. Progress Through Preservation maintains its offer, at its cost, to conduct feasibility studies, third party evaluations of existing structural conditions and conceptual design possibilities to that end. Adding this step to the disposition process does not prevent or stop a use other than preservation. It allows a thoughtful review of preservation as a competitive alternative.



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## St. Paul's Update

Progress Through Preservation President, Dana Noel, recently attended a meeting with the City of Akron and the University of Akron. A representative of the University said they have received communications mostly in support of preservation rather than demolition. However, the University must dispose of the buildings at this time.

At its next board meeting on May 11, PTP intends to discuss possible actions in support of preserving the buildings, having publicly indicated its intent to sponsor a feasibility study to examine adaptive re-uses of the historic buildings. Although one of the two buildings has fire damage, much of the structure remains intact. As such, both buildings can be restored and repurposed to new uses.

The University has scheduled an auction for Friday, June 11, 2021. The properties to be auctioned include the two St. Paul's buildings as well as parking areas located just across South Fir Hill.

## SAVE HISTORIC ST. PAUL'S AT GOFUNDME

We are raising money to benefit Progress Through Preservation's effort to save the historic St. Paul's Church complex, also formerly known as the Firestone Conservatory and the UA Ballet Center. Any donation will help make an impact. Thanks in advance for your contribution to this cause that means so much to all Akronites and preservationists.

Included on the **GoFundMe** website, which was created by Rich Morehouse, is a slide show edited by Annie Noel with input from her father, Dana, Alice Christie, Bob Dill, and Janet Little with information and photographs detailing the history of this significant church.

If you receive this newsletter electronically, **double click on the PTP GoFundMe link below**. The website offers you an opportunity to make a donation through Paypal or a credit card. You can choose to have your donation posted on the website by your name or anonymously. You also can leave a message about St. Paul's for other donors to see. Please consider sharing the **GoFundMe** website with people on Facebook and Twitter, or email others who would want to help save this historic site. There are easy-to-use buttons on **GoFundMe** so you can get the word out to your family, friends, and acquaintances.



[PTP GoFundMe](#)

On May 6, 1917, a Tiffany five-panel stained glass window, "The Transfiguration", was dedicated at a Sunday service. It was the gift of Charles Bebee and Mary Jane Perkins Raymond. Mr. Raymond was a B.F. Goodrich executive and his wife was the great-granddaughter of General Simon Perkins, the co-founder of Akron in 1825.

### Support of Progress Through Preservation Through Honorariums and Memorials

Another way to support a volunteer-driven organization like PTP is through an endowment. We urge you to give funds in honor of personal and family milestones, recognition of service, or in lieu of flowers at a funeral. Small honorariums and memorials may not seem like much, but it is an easy giving option and keeps the work being done to preserve our community's architectural history at the forefront. With the donor's permission, PTP will list the gift in future newsletters and annual reports to show our appreciation. The customary giving URL for Progress Through Preservation is: [www.akroncf.org/give/PTPFund](http://www.akroncf.org/give/PTPFund).

WE'RE ON THE WEB



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**OUR MISSION:** Progress Through Preservation of Greater Akron (PTP) actively promotes and encourages the preservation, maintenance, restoration, and adaptive reuse of buildings, sites, and neighborhoods that are of historic or architectural significance in Akron and Summit County.

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Please contact us via phone or email. We will make every effort to respond to your questions and comments as quickly as possible.

## MEMBERSHIP

Due to the pandemic shutdown, PTP is extending paid 2020 memberships through 2021. New memberships can be done on the PTP website through Paypal at [www.preservationakron.org](http://www.preservationakron.org). Click on the *Becoming A Member* tab and scroll to the bottom of the page. Membership applications forms are also available there. If your contact information (name, address, phone number, email address) has changed, please complete and mail in an application form or email Janet at [jmlittle2139@gmail.com](mailto:jmlittle2139@gmail.com) to make the corrections. If you have paid for a household and would like to receive an emailed newsletter to more than one email address, please let Janet know at [jmlittle2139@gmail.com](mailto:jmlittle2139@gmail.com).

For members who did not pay in 2020, dues are discounted to 2021 to \$10 for students, \$20 for individuals, and \$25 for households. If you wish to receive correspondence by USPS, please add \$10 to your payment to cover printing and mailing costs. Last month's newsletter, listed the PTP members who paid in 2020 and have their memberships extended through 2021. Check for your name or email Janet at [jmlittle2139@gmail.com](mailto:jmlittle2139@gmail.com). If 2020 members would like to pay for 2021 to support PTP, it would be greatly appreciated.

## Save the Keyser-Swain House



Susan Deitrick from the Northampton Historical Society reached out to Progress Through Preservation. They have created an advocacy group to save from destruction the Keyser-Swain Farmhouse located at 783 West Bath Road in Cuyahoga Falls. The house is slated to be razed, and they are working to preserve this important historical asset.

Just as Akron lost the Werner Building in September, 2020 and is at risk for demolition of St. Paul's, NHS is raising awareness to prove to the City and the Cuyahoga Falls Parks Department that other communities want to see this landmark saved and repurposed with a beneficial end use. There is a link at the bottom of this article to sign the petition. You can also join their Facebook group "Save the Keyser-Swain House." Please help spread the word so more preservation voices can be heard.

<https://www.change.org/p/city-of-cuyahoga-falls-park-recreation-save-the-keyser-swain-farmhouse-from-demolition>