

First Congo gets new steeple!

When it was noticed that we had a leak in the roof/bell tower, a general alarm was raised that we might have to do a major repair within the next couple of years. It came to the point that a child's tiny pool was placed in the tower to keep the leak from coming right into the sanctuary.

The Trustees jumped into action, creating an ad hoc committee to document everything and do some preliminary research into fixing the problem, which was extensive, as can be seen in the picture.



After exhaustive research, the contract submitted by H. M. Osowiecki & Sons was chosen for the repair work, as their plan seemed more in line with the wishes of the church. The contract submitted was for a total of \$174,635, which included cleaning and repairing the Upper Tower; demolishing and replacing the Tower Support Structure, repairing roof damage; replacing the Tower support beams which had broken and were showing rot damage; repairing the base of the Bell Tower.

A Steeple Fund was established to accept donations for the repairs, and additional sources of funding were investigated. The Oldham Little Church Foundation accepted our letter of inquiry, and work began in June of 2020 on the application for funding. It was completed and submitted in September. Work on the steeple had begun in April of 2020, and was completed in October of 2020.

In December of 2020 we were notified that the Oldham Little Church Foundation awarded us a grant of \$9,700 toward the Steeple Repair. Many, many thanks to all who were involved in every step of the work, to those who generously gave to the Steeple Fund, and to the OLCF for honoring of our efforts with this grant!

Here is the beautiful finished job! Praise God!!

