

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Elevator Repair Timeline and Recommendation
Handout for July 20, 2025 Special Congregational Meeting

Timeline:

- **March 10, 2023** - Storm/possible lightning strike resulting in damage to multiple church systems.
- **September 2023** - September 13 - Elevator failed annual inspection.
September 17 - Services held in Fellowship Hall.
September 26 - After closer inspection by Otis Elevator Company, it was discovered that the elevator was not holding position when the power was turned off. Hydraulic fluid was leaking in the pit, indicating major repair needed.
- **November 2023** - Vote at Fall Congregational Meeting to repair the elevator jack - MEI Total Elevator Solutions company bid approved - repair not to exceed \$64,500, including approval to take out a loan to pay for the repair.
\$32,000 anonymous donation was received to assist with elevator repair costs.
- **February 2024** - At the conclusion of MEI's work to repair the jack, they discovered that the elevator still didn't function. They helped us realize that our elevator problems may have stemmed from the March 2023 storm. MEI was unable to move forward with the control system repair because the manufacturer is out of business and the lack of schematics, proprietary parts, and troubleshooting equipment.
The church paid MEI \$62,247.40 for their work in repairing the jack.
- Insurance company approved \$63,362.66 mechanical repair payout to the church for elevator damage (not yet received as of July 2025 due to their requirement that the repair work is completed and elevator is functional before they send us a check).
- **November 2024** - \$66,000 loan money was received and remains in our savings account. Previous repairs were paid with cash on hand, including anonymous donation.
- **March 2024 through April 2025** - Property Team worked with Otis to troubleshoot the control system issues. It was determined that a fix could not be made, and full upgrade of our elevator control system was needed. Otis troubleshooting cost = \$21,619.48.
- **May and June 2025** - Property Team gathered three bids for elevator control system modernization and made their recommendation to Church Council. After extensive review and vetting, MEI was selected, with an estimated cost of \$97,000. Approximately \$2,600 additional funds will be needed to pay an electrician outside of MEI.
An insurance claim was submitted for the additional Otis troubleshooting bills as well as the new bid from MEI to complete the repair.

Recommendation:

- Proceed with MEI to complete full upgrade of the elevator control system with costs totaling \$99,600 (MEI bid & electrician costs).
- The anticipated cost of \$99,600 will be covered by the insurance claim settlement and \$66,000 loan.