

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Alumni from Harvard University's Loeb Fellowship
to focus on historic United Methodist Building and its grounds**

New York, NY – July 18, 2017 – Alumni from Harvard University's Loeb Fellowship will conduct a research project on the historic United Methodist Building and its grounds from July 24- 26, 2017. The interdisciplinary project aims to understand how these sacred places are valued not only for their cultural importance but also for their civic role in providing human services and strengthening communities.

Built in 1922, the United Methodist Building is the only non-government building on Capitol Hill. Designed in Italian Renaissance style and constructed of Indiana limestone, it was the first Protestant agency in Washington, D.C. Today, the United Methodist Building houses a number of ecumenical groups. At the 2016 General Conference, the United Methodist Building became a Heritage Landmark of United Methodism – one of about 50 landmarks around the world. The building has played a significant role at volatile points in the nation's history, from the 1963 March on Washington led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to its recent involvement in a coalition supporting the Affordable Care Act.

The team of Loeb Fellows is comprised of: Kathy Coakley Barrie, museum and exhibit designer (OH); David Kamp, FASLA, LF, NA, landscape architect (NY); Mary Means, preservationist and cultural tourism expert (Washington, DC); Bob Peck, architect and former public official (Washington, DC). The research project will be convened by Rick Reinhard, Chief Administrative Officer of the United Methodist Church.

The Fellowship Alumni Council Grants are awarded to Loeb Fellows based on the likely impact on the focus community, the ability to foster new collaborations among Loeb Fellows and to increase the visibility of the Fellowship.

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About Dirtworks, PC

Dirtworks, PC (www.dirtworks.us) is an internationally recognized and award-winning landscape architecture firm. Its designs enhance the restorative quality of the natural environment. The firm, founded in 1995 by David Kamp, FASLA, LF, NA, provides clients with the creativity and technical knowledge essential to project design and site planning. Dirtworks, PC provides a full range of professional services with a staff of technically trained and design-oriented landscape architects.

About the Loeb Fellowship

The Loeb Fellowship (www.gsd.harvard.edu/professional/loeb_fellowship/) was founded in 1970, through the generosity of the late John L. Loeb, Harvard College '24. The Loeb Fellowship's mission is "to nurture the leadership potential of the most promising men and women in design and other professions related to the built and natural environment."