

# Waterbury Congregational Church



Tuesday, December 5, 2006

To whom it may concern:

This letter is written in support of the renovation work done by Ernie Ruskey to the Waterbury Congregational Church in 2002 – 2003. This work involved the restoration to the outside of the main building as well as the design and construction of an addition to be used as office, library and meeting space.

The Waterbury Congregational Church building was built in 1824 for use as the White Meeting House to serve the village of Waterbury. The Waterbury Congregational Church has been in this building for over one-hundred years. Over that time changes and repairs had been made to the exterior of the building, but larger problems had started to appear, and it was time to do a complete restoration to the exterior. In 2001 a church building committee was formed, and after interviewing several architectural firms Ernie Ruskey was selected for the project.

From the beginning and throughout the project Ernie was concerned about the historic characteristics of the building and making sure not to do anything that would impact on them. From replacing the copper spires on the corners of the building to the slate roof on the addition, Ernie tried to maintain the historic integrity of the building. If issues needed to be resolved, he called in structural engineers, or historic preservationists to review the problem and make recommendations. We were pleased with the concern he showed for the building because it is both our place of worship as well as a historic landmark in Waterbury.


Ernie worked closely with our building committee, helping us resolve problems and make design decisions. His communication skills allowed him to interpret our ideas, and provide us with options and solutions. The building committee was responsible for making the final decision, but Ernie always provided us with enough information to make a sound decision. Ernie attended our weekly project meetings with the contractor, and was able to help resolve any issues with the contractor. If there were situations where the contractor had not followed the specifications as close as they should have, Ernie would make them do it over.

One of the comments we get quite often is that the addition “looks like it has always been there”. This is a compliment to Ernie’s skills to be able to put an

Rev. Peter O. Plagge  
8 North Main St  
Waterbury, VT 05676  
(802) 244-6606  
peter\_o\_p@verizon.net

addition on an almost two-hundred year old building and have it blend in seamlessly.

If you have any questions or need more information, you can contact either one of us at the phone numbers below.



---

Patrick McCabe, Chair Building Committee (244-6632)



---

Peter Plagge, Pastor (244-6606)

Rev. Peter O. Plagge  
8 North Main St  
Waterbury, VT 05676  
(802) 244-6606  
[peter\\_o\\_p@verizon.net](mailto:peter_o_p@verizon.net)