

# 10 Most Endangered Historic Places

# 2010

Preservation Alliance of Minnesota ❖ [www.mnpreservation.org](http://www.mnpreservation.org)

Located adjacent to the Minneapolis Convention Center in downtown Minneapolis, Wesley United Methodist Church was built in 1891. The auditorium-style church was designed by Warren Howard Hayes and is recognized as one of the finest and best-preserved buildings by this prominent ecclesiastical architect. Called "the Mother Church of Minneapolis Methodism," Wesley Church was declared an historic site by the Minnesota Annual Conference in 1983, following local designation by the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission and listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Both the exterior and interior of Wesley Church are designated local landmarks, a rare distinction.



The Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodists has been a responsible steward of the property, making necessary repairs and conducting preventative maintenance as needed. However, the building currently has no congregation, lacks a clear public and/or religious mission, and is a substantial financial drain, so the Conference is now considering a range of options that may include selling Wesley to the highest bidder on the open real estate market. The church occupies a valuable, high profile, commercially-zoned site in a busy area of downtown. Although the building is nominally "protected" by local landmark designation, the city has limited tools at its disposal to ensure the property is maintained, especially if it is purchased by a speculative developer.

The Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodists is seeking a viable reuse for the property and is reaching out to the entire Minneapolis community for assistance and suggestions to ensure the building's preservation.

## Action Steps

1. Contact Rev. Dennis Alexander with your suggestions for reuse of the historic church building.

Rev. Dennis J. Alexander  
The United Methodist Church  
5356 30th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417-2017  
612.722.3001  
Email: [dennis.alexander@minnesotaumc.org](mailto:dennis.alexander@minnesotaumc.org)

2. Make a financial contribution to the United Methodist Conference to be applied towards funding a formal reuse study or an interim maintenance fund for the church building.

3. Volunteer to serve on a reuse action committee.

4. Join the Friends of Wesley Facebook group.

**MINNEAPOLIS**

## Wesley United Methodist Church