



Mount Zion A.M.E. Zion Church
271 South Street
Eatontown, New Jersey 07724
Reverend Lester Baylor, Pastor



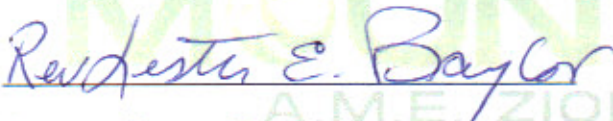
Mayor Anthony Talerico
47 Broad Street
Eatontown, NJ 07724

3/9/2026

Mayor Talerico,

We, the congregation of Mount Zion A. M. E. Zion Church, respectfully submit a request for funding under the Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) for the items documented in the attached proposal. As detailed in the proposal, the funding for these improvements will increase accessibility for members of the community with certain mobility challenges who would like to attend our worship services but have difficulty navigating the stairs leading up to the sanctuary entrance. We request your consideration of this funding proposal. Thank you.

Regards,



Reverend Lester Baylor, Pastor



Sister Evelyn Banks, Pastor's Steward

Mount Zion A.M.E. Zion Church
732.444.2557
Mountzion.eatontown@gmail.com

Brother Ralph Anderson, Trustee

Community Benefit Agreement Proposal for Accessibility Improvements at Mount Zion A.M.E. Zion Church

Installation of an Outdoor & Indoor Stairlift and Reconstruction of Stone Stairs

Introduction / Proposal

Mount Zion A.M.E. Zion Church has served the community for over 180 years as a welcoming spiritual center in Eatontown, NJ, providing services, support, and a gathering place for individuals and families. It is the oldest church in the Borough of Eatontown and one of the oldest existing churches in Monmouth County. As our congregation grows more diverse, it is imperative that our facilities remain accessible to all, including those with mobility challenges. To this end, we are seeking funding to install an outdoor stairlift and rebuild the existing stone stairs at our main entrance.

Statement of Need

Currently, the primary entrance to Mount Zion A.M.E. Zion Church is accessible only by a set of aging stone stairs. These stairs have become increasingly difficult to navigate, especially for elderly members and anyone with temporary or permanent physical disabilities. The lack of accessible entrance not only limits participation but also contradicts our values of inclusion and hospitality.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) sets forth clear guidelines to ensure public spaces are accessible to all. Installing an outdoor stairlift that aligns closely with ADA standards, alongside reconstructing the deteriorated stone stairs, will greatly improve safety and accessibility for every visitor.

Project Description

The proposed project consists of two main components:

1. **Installation of a Stairlift:** To closely align with ADA compliance and provide accessible entry to the sanctuary, an outdoor stairlift will be installed for the church. The stairlift will be positioned alongside the stairs leading to the main entrance, offering a safe and reliable means of access for individuals with mobility challenges. The installation will include weather-resistant materials and safety features such as secure handrails, seatbelts, safety sensors, and easy-to-use controls, ensuring the stairlift operates efficiently in outdoor conditions. Installation of an indoor stairlift is under consideration and is included in project scope.

2. **Reconstruction of Stone Stairs:** The current stone stairs will be carefully dismantled and rebuilt, preserving the historic character of the church while ensuring stability and safety. The new stairs will feature improved treads, risers, and non-slip surfaces.

Project Goals and Outcomes

- Ensure full and equal access to the church for people with disabilities and mobility challenges.
- Enhance safety for all congregants and visitors.
- Preserve the historic aesthetic of the church's entrance while updating it for modern standards.
- Demonstrate the church's commitment to inclusion and community service.

Budget Overview

Item	Estimated Cost
Outdoor Stairlift (materials & installation)	\$9,000
Indoor Stairlift (materials & installation)	\$7,000
Electrician for exterior outlet	\$500 (Estimated)
Stone Stairs Reconstruction	\$10,000 (Estimated)
Permits & Inspections	\$3,500 (Estimated)
Contingency (10%)	\$3,000
Total	\$33,000

*Detailed contractor estimates and itemized budget available when finalized.

Timeline (Estimated)

- Project Planning and Permitting: 04/2026 – 05/2026
- Construction Start: 06/2026
- Completion: 08/2026

Conclusion

With the generous support from the Community Benefits Agreement in the amount of \$32,500, Mount Zion A.M.E. Zion Church will become a more accessible, inclusive, and safe place for worship and community engagement. We are committed to maintaining the historical integrity of our building while ensuring that everyone—regardless of physical ability—can participate fully in our congregation. Thank you for considering our request and for your dedication to advancing accessibility and community well-being.

For additional information or to discuss this proposal, please contact Rev. Lester Baylor via email or phone at, baylorle@verizon.net, (609) 792-6172.

Mayor
ANTHONY TALERICO, JR.

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BOROUGH OF EATONTOWN
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

47 Broad Street
Eatontown, New Jersey 07724
(732) 389 7623

April 29, 2026

Reverend Lester Baylor
Pastor
Mouth Zion A.M.E. Zion Church
271 South Street
Eatontown, NJ 07724

Dear Reverend Baylor,

The Community Benefits Advisory Committee is in receipt of your letter dated March 9, 2026, wherein you requested \$33,000 to be used to fund improvements to your church to increase accessibility for members of the community with mobility challenges.

The Community Benefits Advisory Committee is charged with overseeing the implementation of the Community Benefits Agreement between the Borough of Eatontown, Netflix and the New Jersey Economic Development Authority. In this regard, it considered your request at its meeting of March 31, 2026, found it to be a locally prioritized community benefit and approved your request.

Please sign below indicating your intention to: (1) use the funds as stated in your letter dated March 9, 2026, (2) send proof of payment of the funds for the project and (3) return to the Borough any funds that are not expended for the stated purposes.

Thank you,

Anthony Talerico, Jr.
Mayor

Agreed:

Reverend Lester Baylor, Pastor
Mouth Zion A.M.E. Zion Church