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**Western Specialty Contractors Restores Bell Tower at  
Historic Little Rock, Arkansas Church**

*Restoration experts use stippling method to match original terra cotta appearance*

(St. Louis, MO, July 31, 2019) Quapaw Quarter United Methodist Church in Little Rock, AR was designed in 1921 by prominent architectural firm Thompson and Harding. Built in stages from 1921 to 1926, the 44,000-square-foot, Gothic Revival-style church features a red brick and terra cotta façade. Recently, the historic restoration experts at Western Specialty Contractors – Little Rock, AR branch were challenged with repairing the church’s bell tower which was showing signs of instability and wear-and-tear.

Western’s experts consulted with WER Architects to determine a plan of action for repairing the damaged bell tower. The tower’s interior brick wall was bulging out of the outside wall and required stabilization. Western was able to stabilize the tower’s brick wall by installing dry fix helical anchors and Heli Bar stitching rods at locations determined by the architect. Once the tower was stabilized, Western tuckpointed the masonry joints with matching mortar.

Patching and tuckpointing the terra cotta at the roof level of the bell tower was performed using mortar and patching materials that matched the existing façade. The coating for the terra cotta was applied using the stippling method (creating a pattern using small dots simulating varying degrees of shading) to match the surrounding terra cotta appearance. Maintaining the original appearance of the church, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was a priority.

A roofing subcontractor was contracted to remove the existing bell tower roof and install new wood joists, roof hatch, TPO roof and access ladder. The roofing contractor discovered that the roof joist plan

would not work with the existing conditions. The architect quickly amended the roof repair plan so that changes could be implemented without disrupting the schedule.

Due to funding from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, the project had to be completed within two months. The restoration team was able to complete the project on time and within budget.

### **About Western Specialty Contractors**

Family-owned and operated for more than 100 years, Western Specialty Contractors is the nation's largest specialty contractor in masonry and concrete restoration, waterproofing and specialty roofing. Western offers a nationwide network of expertise that building owners, engineers, architects and property managers can count on to develop cost-effective, corrective measures that can add years of useful life to a variety of structures including: industrial, commercial, healthcare, historic, educational and government buildings, parking structures and sports stadiums. Western is headquartered in St. Louis, MO with 30 branch offices nationwide and employs more than 1,200 salaried and hourly professionals who offer the best, time-tested techniques and innovative technology. For more information about Western Specialty Contractors, visit [www.westernspecialtycontractors.com](http://www.westernspecialtycontractors.com).

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