Walk-Around Chicago: Historic Second Presbyterian Church of Chicago Guided Tour

Thursday, September 18, 2025. 1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

Stroll through Chicago's Prairie Avenue Historic District to one of the city's s most architecturally and artistically significant edifices. Designated a National Historic Landmark, Second Presbyterian Church is a rare, intact example of Arts and Crafts design that is located just a short walk (four blocks) from the conference site.

Docents from the foundation restoring the landmark will join conference participants and guests at the church to discuss the history and significance of the building and its neighborhood. They will lead a tour exploring the building's transformation after a 1900 fire, when architect Howard Van Doren Shaw reimagined it as a unified work of art. From the carved woodwork to the decorative stenciling and symbolic murals, every detail reflects a commitment to harmony, craftsmanship, and moral uplift rooted in the ideals of the Progressive Era.

At the heart of the tour are the church's extraordinary stained-glass windows — nine designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany, with others by prominent studios including William Fair Kline and Edward Burne-Jones. These masterworks not only illuminate the space with breathtaking color and light but also reflect a deep theological and aesthetic vision. Taken together, they represent one of the most important collections of religious stained glass in the Midwest. The tour is a must-do for any lover of American art, architectural preservation, or legal protections for cultural heritage. (The Foundation suggests a $5 donation per visitor.)

Please sign up today to join us on this unique tour (see attached).

