

SANCTUARY RENOVATION FAQs

How will this change the look and feel of our church?

We expect that the changes in the look and feel will be significant but very positive. The screens will “take some getting used to” but this will vary from person to person and we are hopeful that this period of adjustment will be very brief aided by the plusses that the screens and their use will add to our worship experience. We also believe that the lighting in the sanctuary will improve significantly. Platform lighting will be more focused, flexible, and controllable. Lighting over the pew areas will be more controllable and focused as well. The goal here will be light that is completely adequate when we need it and where we need it and will not spill into areas where it will detract from the worship experience. Controlling the lighting will be key in getting the most and best out of the projection system.

How will we use the screens in morning worship?

The principal purpose of using screens will be to enhance the congregation’s focus on, attentiveness to, and impact from the worship service as a whole and in its separate parts. Screens will not necessarily be used at every service, or at every point in any service. Additional benefits screens can provide include support for the planned bi-lingual worship services, relief for those who find it difficult to hold books, and increased hospitality for visitors by helping them follow the flow of the service.

Does this mean our church is going contemporary? I've heard that other churches go with all praise music once they get screens.

The presence of screens will not dictate changes to our current style of worship but is expected to enhance our current worship style. The congregation’s collective intentions will continue to determine how we worship. Any changes will be introduced cautiously and thoughtfully, using trained and informed technical assistants.

I don't want to get rid of the Psalters and Bibles; will everything go on the screen instead?

Our use of screens will change over time but there are no present plans to remove either of these from the pews. We acknowledge that some will very much want to continue using the song books and the Bible in their current form.

Will we still get printed bulletins?

We certainly will continue to use printed bulletins although our use of that format may well change as we develop experience with the projection system. The goal of all of this is enhancement of worship, and bulletins for the liturgy will continue to be used as long as they enhance the worship experience of our members and guests.

Will the screens be big enough to allow for all the musical parts to be viewed, so we can continue our tradition of making heavenly harmony?

Yes. The size of the screens will be sufficient and the rest of this question will be addressed by finding and using appropriate software and song files that are already available and used in other area churches.

How might screens be used beyond morning worship?

The most obvious use for screens involves what we are doing already, only with our present inadequate technology: to project song lyrics in the evening worship, run highlights of such church events as the youth mission trips, and to present information at congregational meetings. Some families also use screens as part of weddings or funerals.

Who will run the projection system?

The best way, right now, to answer this is to say that the current sound technicians will NOT also run the projection system. It is likely to start with a small team of volunteers. Staff will likely be involved in setting up the digital files for each service.

Financially we still haven't paid off the addition, why would we spend more now?

In many ways, the timing for this work is very good. Paint and carpet is worn and looking old, as we gradually use projection more and more, we find our current system sorely lacking. The timing of the mortgage provides a unique opportunity to finance a portion of the work in a relatively painless manner. To further address this question, we will present more detailed information on the history of our current mortgage and its anticipated duration into the future at the January meetings.

What will this do to the church's annual budget? We are having trouble making our budget even now.

We don't anticipate a significant impact on the annual budget. Most of the costs of construction and installation will be covered through financing and some existing funds. We expect that we will be able to run the projection system with interested and trained volunteers (some stipend may be required for this). There will be some on-going costs for the purchase of music in the proper format for projection. We do not anticipate fundraising beyond what we have been doing recently to encourage "over and above" giving to debt retirement. And there will be annual pushes for support of the building fund. This monthly obligation is likely to be only a bit more than we have right now.

Why are we painting the sections of wood in front instead of leaving it wood?

You may recall the work that Chris Overvoorde presented to us last year. Key in his work was the idea of minimizing the horizontalness of the front of our sanctuary and increasing the vertical lines in the interest of enhanced worship. Our committee has also heard some considerable concern for painting the oak woodwork in the front. We believe that what we are now proposing represents a nice, pleasing compromise that also transfers the lines to a much more vertical orientation.

If we approve this plan what will be the timeline for installation and completion?

Upon congregational approval of the proposal, we anticipate 4 to 5 months of preliminary work - seeking and collecting bids on the work, making decisions regarding contractors, and making arrangements for the work to be done in proper sequence. Then the work itself will take between three and six months, depending, in part, on what arrangements we choose to make regarding worshipping elsewhere or continuing to worship in our sanctuary for the duration of the project.

What are we being asked to approve on January 22?

You are being asked to approve the plan proposed through the written material and verbal presentation. That means all of the proposed modifications and upgrades to the sanctuary accomplished in a sequence that works well with the constraints of installation and construction. It also means that we ask for approval with the understanding that it will cost very close to the amount indicated. While the numbers provided here are estimates, they are estimates from sources that are reliable – consultants, potential installers and contractors. It also must be understood that we will financially support this through a combination of some existing bequest funds and the inclusion of a significant portion of the cost in the mortgage that we must refinance in February. More specific figures are being gathered and more information will be provided in January.