

Sanctuary Rejuvenation Project

March 1, 2024

OPS Committee Report

PRIMARY GOAL OF REJUVENATION PROJECT: To make all activities in the sanctuary as audibly, and visibly clear as possible, providing user friendly streaming technology, excellent sound quality, adequate lighting, and comfortable seating for all congregants.

RATIONALE: Many congregants are having trouble hearing the speakers during the Worship Service. Some congregants sit in the Women's Memorial Room not because they want to but because the seats are more comfortable, and they can hear better. Over the years, there have also been complaints about the inability to be able to see well. The lighting is poor at best. This also affects the tech teams ability to provide streaming of the services. The lighting is so poor it affects the camera's ability to record a clear image. The OPS Committee, over time, tried to solve the problems but soon realized that our solutions were woefully inadequate.

THE PLAN: We contracted with BEERS/HOFFMAN, local architects, who specialize in churches. We chose an architect because our problems are not unique, and they already had vetted vendors who could address our needs. The following discussion includes results of three meetings held to address: Sound, Lighting and Church Furniture.

SOUND:

1. What we have:
 - Outdated speakers for hearing the "spoken word."
 - Sound coming from above is not how we hear. Must come from the front so our ears capture the sound
2. What we can improve:
 - Speaker placement would come from the front of the sanctuary. These would fit into the architecture so as not to be seen.
 - Women's Memorial Rooms would also have a new speaker.
 - New speakers would provide clear, distinct audio sound that is automatically balanced by a digital mixer. The mixer adjusts the sound automatically for distance.
 - The Sound Control Center would be relocated to the back of the sanctuary instead of in the Women's Memorial Room. Trying to adjust sound for the sanctuary in an adjoining room where you cannot hear what is going on is not recommended.
 - Belt packs would provide crystal clear hearing of the sermon and cancel out surrounding noises.

LIGHTING:

1. What we have:
 - Our lighting is woefully inadequate. Streaming is a prime example. There is not enough light to capture the sanctuary on a good day.
 - Difficult to turn on lights and off in the sanctuary unless you know where the switches are located.
2. What we can improve:
 - Replace the chandeliers with more opaque lighting that is easy on the eyes.
 - Replace the wall sconces with more opaque lighting.
 - All lighting will be dimmable with the possibility of remote controls and digital switching.
 - Sconces could have the possibility of motion detection.

SEATING AND CARPET:

1. What we have:
 - Pews that are not comfortable, especially for long periods of time.
Question to ask ourselves? Would we watch a Netflix movie or go to a movie theater and watch a movie in our pews?
 - Squeaking floors.
 - Non-carpeted areas
2. What we can improve:
 - Continuous carpet squares that do not squeak
 - Comfortable pews: pew chairs and individual chairs
 - Flexibility of seating.

CONCLUSIONS: These are all possibilities for the congregation to think about. This starts a process of discussion. The OPS Committee will continue our work with the architect and vendors. All of you have had input into the process. The Board has conducted several town hall meetings. The OPS Committee has invited the sound vendor to the Sanctuary for a Sunday service so those interested could hear the difference a good sound system could make to the quality of our services.