

Questions and Answers 1

Listed here are some of the questions raised at the congregational meeting on March 20, 2016 and current responses from The Facilities Renovation Task Force. Additional comments and questions will be addressed after April 24, 2016

The Worship Space

Q: Is the sanctuary large enough, is there room to expand?

A: The task force was asked to make a worship space large enough to seat no more than 300 people. For special situations, it would be possible to add a few more seats in the gathering space with sight lines and sound available. If we get larger, the idea was that we need to divide the congregation or solve the issue in a way other than more construction. Our lot size does not allow for more expansion even if we wanted to do so. If a funeral or wedding needed a much larger space, it would be necessary to have the service at an alternative location. The College Church has offered their space for large funerals.

Q: Are you paying attention to the light quality in the worship space?

A: We are trying to provide good indirect light in the worship space. Not all the details have been decided yet.

Q: What about air circulation/air conditioning?

A: We are thinking about good quality air flow so that portable fans are not necessary. Whether or not we have air conditioning will be up to the congregation to decide whether it is worth the cost.

Q: What about acoustics and sound system?

A: While not all the details are in place, the goal is to have an upgraded sound system. We hope to have audio technological help specific to the needs of hearing impaired. There will be speakers throughout the building (in all the classrooms and multipurpose space) so that anyone can hear what is happening in the worship space. Each room (speaker) will have its own control. We will consult with a sound engineer to make sure our worship space has good acoustics.

Q: What about the aesthetics and feel of the space?

A: There are three artists/designers on our TF who are always reminding us of the need to have a beautiful as well as a functional space. We all are concerned about simplicity, beauty, and that the place reflects our theology and the Assembly "feel".

Renovation

Q: What about coats and mailboxes?

A: We thought we would use hooks on walls again but have not worked out all the details for coats and mail boxes.

Q: What about the library location?

A: Leaving the library in the same location was part of our effort to minimize remodeling costs. We did make it larger. We speculated that much of the flow will be through the new multipurpose space. There is the possibility of comfortable seating in that corner of the MP room so it seemed best to have the doors open into that room.

Q: Can we renovate and expand the kitchen?

A: The kitchen will be larger with more storage when the day care moves out their refrigerators/freezers and the things they have stored there. There is not room to add more space to the current kitchen. The amount of renovation may depend on cost. But yes we can consider this issue.

Q: Are there enough bathrooms? Baby changing space? Handicap accessible?

A. The number of people/space per stall meets code without counting the bathrooms in the classrooms. With standard height toilets in those, they are also usable by all. The new single-use restrooms will be handicap accessible (which includes the one in the back hall). There will be baby changing stations in the new single use RR.

Q: Will there be a nursery?

A. The current thought is that the baby Sunday School classroom would be a space that mothers' could go to nurse or care for babies. Also the gathering space which will have some comfortable seating, would allow visual as well sound connection. There would also be space in the MP space. We are definitely open to more feedback, especially from parents of young children.

Ecology and use of space

Q: Is the parking lot bigger than it needs to be? Can't we have more green space?

The number of parking spaces designated at this time is actually fewer than code requires. We will be asking for a variance from the city to have fewer spaces than code requires. Because so many of our attenders live close to church and walk or ride bikes a lot of the year, we think that should be possible. We do want to maximize our green space.

Q: Solar panels or geothermal?

A: We are putting a metal roof on our building so that we can easily add solar panels now or in the future. We are keeping in mind energy efficiencies and our carbon foot print.

Q: There is a lot of unused space during the week.

A: Filling the building during the week is the responsibility of the entire congregation and our community. We have already had discussions about the many ways our building might be a resource for our neighborhood and the community. If we proceed with this project, there will many more discussions around this topic.

Sunday School Rooms

Q: Are the Sunday School rooms big enough and are there enough of them.

A: The Sunday School coordinators have been consulted about the maximum number of classrooms that would be needed. The magic number is 11. We have 11 rooms plus the conference room that could also serve as a Sunday School alternative from time to time . The Sunday school rooms vary in size and each year the classrooms would be assigned according to the number of children in that age group which is how we do it now.

Q: It looks like we need to pass through some classrooms to access others.

A. The trade-off is making more hallways and therefore the classrooms smaller. It was decided that passing through (it is what we currently do) is better and more cost effective than shrinking classroom space. Most of the time, the pass through comes at the beginning and end of the SS hour. Each of those rooms will have water and a restroom which should limit the amount of traffic during the hour.