

Frequently Asked Questions – Building Committee Recommendations

1. Will the stained glass windows, pipe organ, and baptistry remain?
YES, there are no plans to remove any of these items.
2. Is this a yes or no vote or will there be options to vote on only certain part of the recommendations?
It will be a YES / NO proposition. The building committee structured the plan to have definitive boundaries; breaking apart creates a significant domino effect on different component; the entry / corridor to worship center and chapel is a unit that needs to function as a whole; finally, many of the items should be done in conjunction with remodel or will cost more later.
3. What on the budget list is needed vs. wanted?
The Committee believes that all of the recommendations are needed as submitted. As noted in the prior question, the committee has reviewed all the issues carefully and believes that the provision as part of a package is the most cost effective means of providing the array of identified improvements.
4. If it is a yes or no what percentage of the vote will we need to consider it a yes?
Per Church by-laws, a simple majority is the requirement. However, it is our hope that God will lead us to a strong majority vote.
5. According to the pie chart, only 16% of our congregation supports a remodel at this time. Can you address this?
The chart shows 89% of the respondents want either remodel, new, expansion, recreation, community / connection space, etc...the building committee recommends .this remodel as the best place to start. The Worship center and corridor area and the mini-theatre are the oldest facilities we have that have not been remodeled.
6. Are we going to remodel the chapel and what will it look like?
Yes, carpet and paint to match Worship center, no changes to ceiling or stained glass, change to movable seating to expand uses and functionality; plus we hope to be able to remove the fixed platform to make space even more usable for a variety of functions.
7. If this passes, where will the Senior Adult classes meet that are affected by the changes? The one most affected is the senior women's class which meets in the Parlor. The class averages between 25-35.
The remodeled Chapel will be able to accommodate at least two separate, large classes.
8. Where will the sound equipment be housed?
In a portion of the music suite; this is only the booth portion, the sound board will move to the back row of the balcony with seating in front of it.
9. What is the interest rate we will be paying on the debt loan and what percentage of our budget is our current debt? What is the typical debt ratio for churches our size?
Rates may vary depending on when the actual debt is incurred; currently that rate would be in the mid 5% range. The typical (average) portion of the budget allocated to debt is in the 12% range for churches with at least a \$5 million operating budget and running at least 2000 in church per week. Currently, church debt payments are less than 10% of the church budget; after this project, the debt will still be about 10% of the budget.
10. Are we going to level the sanctuary floor? Meaning, take out the "bowl" elevation.
No, that would damage all the sight lines in the sanctuary and would be very costly.
11. Will any of the recommended project funds be used to acquire option property or any of the 80 acre partnership?
No, the \$1.5 million project funds will be used exclusively for improvements to existing facilities at the Louisiana Street campus.

12. Will the choir risers be removed or retained?
The risers will be retained. Riser extensions can be used to adjust the depth of the risers for orchestra seating and other uses, but can be easily moved to accommodate traditional choir uses.
13. Can a canopy / cover be added over the front entry and can hand rails be added up the front steps?
The building committee is continuing to study the canopy issue and agrees that it is needed; if a good, moderated cost solution can be found, it is the desire to add the canopy. Additionally, the committee will study the hand rail issue and try to provide it.
14. Was the Committee unanimous about the proposal?
*There were some elements that one or two committee members voiced concerns about or did not support and would have preferred to have been different. We were, however, all in agreement on the overall recommendation as evidenced by the BC letter to the congregation in which it states:
"While we are a very diverse group, God has been able to mold our thoughts and opinions into a collective direction that we all support and believe He has revealed."
As shown in various discussion groups, our congregation is very diverse and has different desires for different elements. It has been the objective of the committee to structure an overall recommendation that provides a combination of improvements that can be supported by an overwhelming majority of our congregation.*
15. How is seating capacity affected and by how much? Is it reflected in this budget?
Seating is slightly enhanced by re-installing seating in the space opened up by moving the sound booth. The committee is continuing to explore other options to increase seating capacity.
16. Should we wait on this issue until our Church budget is back on track?
We are very sensitive to the current overall economic situation the in our country. This is the primary reason that the proposals are limited at this time. We believe that the Holy Spirit guided us to this recommendation and thus, by waiting, we would not be following God's leading. Waiting would amount to depending on our abilities and resources instead of looking to God as our provider. We believe He has the resources and will direct his people to give appropriately. It is important for a people of faith to step out on that faith. No one desires any action that will diminish church ministries. Thus, the official motion that the Church will vote on will include a provision that no debt for the recommended construction / improvements will be executed until the Finance Committee determines that budgetary issues have stabilized sufficiently.
17. What is the plan for an improved prayer room?
The current recommendation does not include moving or modifying the prayer room; there is simply not a good place to locate it within the area being renovated. We have, however, discussed that a new prayer room should be included in the next phase of expansion.
18. Are we investing money in this campus, only to be moving to the 80 acre site soon?
We do not anticipate that we will be moving from the Louisiana Street Campus even if we pursue a new church start or second campus site on the 80 acres.