

Second Meeting on Worship Space Changes

Before we began discussing the worship space, we discussed having a designated worship committee. Corby suggested we include all clergy, any worship ministers (currently there are none), the two new Eucharistic ministers, altar guild members, musicians, and lay preachers. At the end of the meeting we decided we would meet the first Tuesday of each month to plan liturgy, music and sermon content.

First question: What do you like about the worship space? What about it helps you to worship?

Answers:

1. Good light
2. Simple and minimal adornments
3. Like the organ at the back because it isn't obstructing the view and it is friendly having the organist there when people enter from the narthex
4. The cross is beautiful
5. The new windows are nice-they let in a lot of light
6. The French doors to the narthex let in light and allow us to see people who come in-they are friendly
7. The pew cushions and the kneelers are comfortable
8. Sitting in pews seems friendlier than sitting in individual chairs
9. The clear glass in the narthex is nice-it allows more light
10. Having a light color on the walls is good

Second question: What things don't you like about the worship space?

Answers:

1. The odd, short step up to the sanctuary-it is unsafe because it is too shallow for most everyone's foot to rest on it securely and it is hard to kneel on it
2. The cross is obscured by the dark wall behind it
3. It is generally dark in the sanctuary area and it is close and seems crowded
4. The altar is too far away from the congregation
5. Don't like the organ at the back because it is hard to synchronize the music with the singing and to communicate with the celebrant/presider
6. Don't like the organ at the back because the organist is isolated from the rest of us
7. We either need a new sound system or need to use the one we have better

8. Everyone who speaks during the service needs to project his or her voice better even when using the sound system.
9. Lectors need more training and need to see the material ahead of time so they are familiar with what they are going to read
10. Those who need to stand to receive communion feel it is awkward trying to reach out for the elements
11. The lectern could be closer to the congregation
12. It is a long haul up to the communion rail for the halt and infirm-it's embarrassing for some people so they just won't go up and sometimes they won't agree to have the elements brought to them
13. The older dry wall in the nave is in bad shape and the paint is too bright white and is too glossy
14. The pulpit is ugly
15. The little box with the pulpit is problematic for taller people if they forget to remove it before preaching-one is too far from the microphone
16. The little box with the pulpit is problematic for forgetful short people if one forgets one is standing on it and it restricts movement while speaking
17. The altar is too big for the space
18. The Eucharistic ministers and other lay servers should wear albs
19. The altar flowers disappear either from lack of light or due to the dark wall behind-they can be seen up close but not from the nave
20. The bishop's chair is problematic-we don't use it and it is big
21. The fire hazard of having the candles too close to the wood wall
22. The handrail at the edge of the chancel is not high enough for most people and there is no handrail at the communion rail
23. Most people enter from Calder Hall and they should enter through the narthex
24. The communion rail gate is distracting when people are opening and closing it. It is also a barrier that is not needed.
25. The lectionary sheets that we subscribe to often have tiny print and it is hard to read.
26. The sacristy door into the worship space stands out too much.

Possible solutions:

(For 1-6, 10, 12, 14-17, 22 and 24.) We could raise the level of the chancel and make it and the sanctuary the same level. The communion rail could be moved out to the edge of this raised space. The sixteen-inch rise could be dealt with by having (from the nave level) an 8-inch-high riser the full width of the new sanctuary that would be a maximum of 14 inches deep. We could have an opening without a gate similar in size to the current opening from the nave with a better handrail than the existing one. We could make cushions to go on the

riser for those who want to kneel. The communion rail would go along the edge of the raised sanctuary space at the 16-inch height from the nave floor and recessed behind the 8-inch riser level. Those who kneel could lean on it.

With this raised and larger sanctuary, we could move the altar forward and there would be space at the very back corner (the East wall) for the organ and organist. There would still be space for the old pews along the walls though we might need to find another place for the electronic piano. We would need to address moving an existing electrical outlet and the current chancel window would be close to the new floor level. We did not see either of these as a problem. The pulpit would have to be removed and a new place for the sound system would need to be set up. We would use the current lectern as an ambo to serve for both pulpit and reading. It was suggested we think about where to place the lectern so it doesn't block access to the new communion rail but so it is closer to the congregants.

The cost for this would mainly be the materials as there are people in the congregation or related who would do the labor. We would need to decide what kind of floor covering to put in the new sanctuary space.

John Tennefoss wants to find musical groups who would perform in the worship space and put on community concerts. Some kind of bare floor and the ability to easily move the liturgical furniture would be the best option for this use. A larger space on one level would allow groups of varying size to use the space, too. [Post meeting note: We might want to consider adding more electrical outlets in case groups need to hook up equipment for their concerts.]

(For 8, 9 and 25) We need to offer training and resources to those who want to read during the service. Requiring that people sign up ahead of time would be good so the material can be offered for review in advance. This is hard because we want to include anyone who wants to read. One help would be to purchase a lectern book that contains the revised common lectionary for years A, B, and C-the print would be more legible for the readers. They cost \$200. We have \$100 given as an ordination commemoration gift from the Stewart family. They requested that it be used to buy something for the church in honor of the ordination on November 1st last year.

(For 18) Have the Eucharistic ministers determine their sizes for albs and order them. The church pays for these.

One thing that was suggested that won't solve any of the issues above is that we put a single French door between the nave and Calder Hall so light can pass between the spaces and so people who use the hall can see into the worship space-it is just friendlier. This would be the cost of the door and

hardware and paint. (For 26) We also suggested that all the interior doors be painted to brighten them up and especially so the sacristy door into the chancel/sanctuary blends into the wall.

(For 13) Jim Campbell said he will contact some contractors about what needs to be done to the nave walls and ceilings to determine what it would cost to repair them so they look nice when we paint them.

Other items discussed: using a table for communion instead of the current altar, getting free-standing shelves for the flower arrangements and candleholders so they can be placed where they can be seen and so the candles are not so close to the wall (this would also allow for easy removal for concerts, etc.) This would resolve #'s 19 and 21.

The group who met this day felt raising the chancel space and increasing the size of the sanctuary is a top priority because of the safety issue for those in altar guild and the liturgical servers who must use the odd step to get up to the altar area. Also, we have made our building and restrooms accessible but our communion rail and altar space are not. This is the most important place to spend money right now-the other issues can be dealt with later as funds are available.

We also want to assure that those who want to provide input about the worship space have that opportunity to be heard. Others might have better ideas about resolving the issues or different viewpoints about what is most important. We don't have to do anything right away though the safety concerns about people tripping or falling to get up and down to the sanctuary space should be resolved sooner rather than later.

Those in attendance: The Reverend Lorraine Dierick, John Tennefoss, Wanda Wahl, Corby Varness, Martha Krug, Jim Campbell, and The Reverend Bonnie Campbell. We also had input from Chris Boardman via Martha Krug and her concern was included in the list.