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CENTRAL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MUSIC SUITE & SANCTUARY IMPROVEMENTS

At the February 2017 Church Conference, permission was given to form a new Building Committee and commence work on Phase I of the adopted master plan. The information below seeks to provide an update on the work done since February.



WILL I GET A CHANCE TO WEIGH IN WITH THOUGHTS AND QUESTIONS ABOUT PHASE I?

Absolutely. Informational sessions will be held on Thursday, June 22 at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday afternoon, June 25, at 12:15 p.m. Both sessions will be in the Wesley Chapel. For those attending the sessions a feedback form will be provided. If you are unable to attend a session in person an online comment form will be available at www.centraltolife.com.

I ATTEND CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP OR GENESIS CHURCH. HOW DOES THIS AFFECT ME?

We are all part of the Central family focused on our mission of making Christ central to the life for the people of Northwest Arkansas and around the world. This credo means that when we give the money we give it may not directly impact us, but rather so that it can provide a means to fulfill our mission. Our most recent capital campaign focused on providing over \$1 million each to the UA Wesley Foundation and Genesis campus. We did this out of our desire to help others get to know Christ. Also, almost \$300,000 from our last campaign was used to improve the contemporary worship venue. Each capital campaign may not provide each of us direct benefit, but over time the successive campaigns do touch almost all areas of our ministry.

WHAT WILL BE PLACED BEFORE THOSE ATTENDING THE CHURCH CONFERENCE ON TUESDAY, JUNE 27?

A church conference is scheduled for Tuesday, June 27, at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. A resolution containing four items will be presented for consideration and approval:

1. A site plan, updated floor plan, and color renderings of the project.
2. A breakdown of items included in Phase I along with projected costs for them.
3. Permission will be requested to conduct a capital campaign to receive pledges for the work proposed in Phase I.
4. Permission will be requested to allow our architect to develop construction documents.

IF THE PROPOSAL BEFORE THE CHURCH CONFERENCE IS APPROVED ON JUNE 27, WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

1. Construction drawings and the capital campaign will be done over the summer.
2. Formal bidding will occur in the fall.
3. A final set of informational meetings and a church conference to seek final approval on the project will be held before the end of the year.
4. Construction would commence in early 2018 and be completed by August 2018.

WHY BUILD A NEW MUSIC SUITE AND MODIFY THE SANCTUARY CHANCEL?

Excitement is building as Central UMC considers a new music suite and sanctuary chancel improvements. Moving forward with this building project will help us complete many of our goals:

1. Enhance the Sanctuary Worship Experience

People come into our worship space to encounter God. When you enter the sanctuary, the room invites you in and beckons you forward. There is an air of expectation that something is about to happen. Improvements in the lighting and elevation of the chancel will draw the eyes upward and keep the focus on God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The new design elevates the altar, giving it prominence in the room. The cross and Jesus Christ on the rose window remain the focal point.

2. Expand Our Ministry

Our ministry aims to lead people deeper in discipleship. The new space provides the capacity to enlarge our music program under the leadership of Dr. Frode Gundersen. We long to involve more people in music and worship ministry - adults, children and youth. People will grow deeper in their faith and find fellowship in small groups. Their discipleship will be greatly enriched.

3. Honor Our History & Architecture

Our beautiful sanctuary is not only a landmark in Fayetteville, but also a sacred and holy architectural space designed to foster a sense of transcendence. The sanctuary was designed and built in

1953 based on Georgian-style architecture. The sanctuary should be consistently improved and lovingly maintained. The new chancel design carefully preserves the architecture of the original design and enhances its beauty.

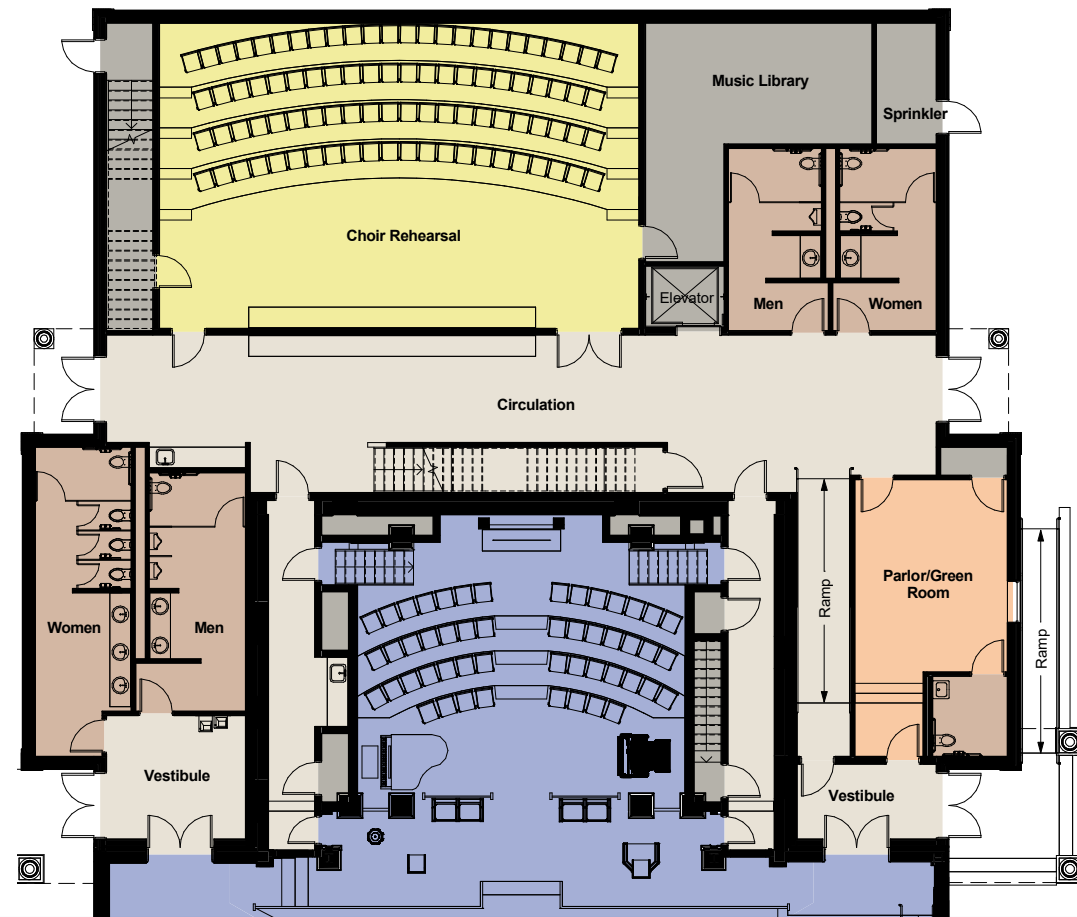
4. Provide Functionality & Flexibility

The new chancel will continue the sacred feeling of the original design; however, the improvements will provide us with great flexibility. Many of the chancel furniture pieces will be removable, so that the entire chancel can be opened for special worship events. The room will be utilized for inspiring concerts and sacred music programs featuring orchestra, organ, choir and soloists.

5. Improve Accessibility

It is important that all people have ability to access the sacred space of God's holy sanctuary. New access for persons with disabilities is provided from both the sanctuary and the music suite. Improved accessible seating with better site lines is added. Persons with mobility issues will have improved access from the east accessible parking lot and a covered entryway from a new drop-off location on the west side.

FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



WHAT IS PLANNED FOR PHASE I?

Key elements of the proposed construction plans include:

Sanctuary Worship Experience

- Chancel modifications designed to enhance the worship experience by increasing space for musical instruments and choir seating, improving sight lines, and making the space more flexible all while maintaining architectural integrity. It will also bring better focus to the chancel area's beloved architectural features, such as the altar, with its Last Supper sculpture and spot for flower arrangements, the suspended cross, the rose window and the descending dove.

- A stronger visual presence of a new pipe organ.

Functionality & Flexibility

- A new parlor that will also serve as a bride's room for weddings, a pastor's robing area before worship services, a family room for funerals, and a small group meeting space.
- The addition of technology and other equipment that makes the choir rehearsal space flexible to use for meetings, recitals, and small concerts
- Furniture that is movable and portable to allow for an increased number of configurations and uses.

Ministry

- Surgical demolition of the current second-floor choir rehearsal space and first-floor parlor and music director's office to make room for a larger music suite, with a large first floor rehearsal room, an ensemble practice room, two individual practice rooms, a rehearsal room for Central's bell choirs and offices for music ministry staff.

Accessibility

- Modern men's and women's restrooms easily accessible from the sanctuary.
- A covered walkway providing protection from the elements from a vehicle drop-off point north of the sanctuary to a new west entrance to the sanctuary.
- New and improved entrances to the sanctuary in the east and west transepts.
- Re-designed access for people with disabilities that will provide access to the chancel area from both the music suite and front seating areas.
- Addition of an elevator to improve access to both floors.

HAS ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT CHANGED SINCE THE FEBRUARY CHURCH CONFERENCE?

Yes, because of the additional elements added into the project to meet concerns previously raised, the overall square footage has increased about 2,500 square feet. This will increase the financial support needed.

DO WE KNOW THE COST OF PHASE I?

At the time of printing our updated cost estimates indicate that construction management, design fees, equipment and furnishings, and contingency at approximately, \$3,125,000. We will continue to hone this figure as further design and costing is done.

HOW MUCH DEBT DOES CENTRAL HAVE?

Central has two notes payable, one for \$1.65 million related to the Student Ministries Building/Parking Deck and another for \$2.9 million related to the post office property which total approximately \$4.55 million. The total annual principal and interest payments are \$423,000, however the lease on the post office covers about \$124,000 of the payments, leaving about \$299,000 to be paid by Central's operating budget annually. This represents about 6% of Central's budget.

WHO HAS THE CHURCH ENGAGED TO HELP WITH PHASE I WORK?

HH Architects of Dallas, Texas is handling the architectural design work on the project. Baldwin & Shell is serving as construction manager, and Jorgensen & Associates is serving as our civil engineer.

WILL THE CHURCH INCUR ANY ADDITIONAL DEBT RELATED TO THE PHASE I PROJECTS?

No, we plan to spend only what is raised from the capital campaign. In fact, it is anticipated that a further reduction of existing debt could be accomplished through the program. All monies raised above our campaign goal will go straight to principal debt retirement.

IF APPROVAL IS GRANTED TO HOLD A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN, HOW WILL THAT UNFOLD?

The capital campaign will be conducted in July and August with Commitment Sunday scheduled for August 27, when Central families will be able to make a commitment to this campaign. The campaign will be handled by Central's in-house staff which will save the church considerable money versus hiring a consultant to assist us. The campaign is expected to run 24 months commencing on September 1, 2017 and ending on August 31, 2019.

WHY ARE WE SPENDING MONEY ON FACILITIES INSTEAD OF MISSIONS?

Although it can be represented that this project is all about facilities, our contention is that it is an investment to provide for enhanced ministry for generations to come and that the fruit of this investment will allow us to provide far greater resources for missions than we do now. Central is extremely supportive of local, national, and international missions with several hundred thousand dollars a year channeled into a variety of initiatives.