



Spanish Fort
United Methodist Church

SANCTUARY RENEWAL

The goal: Go ye therefore and preach.

- ▶ To provide worshippers a clearly audible experience with correct lighting and improved projection equipment.
- ▶ To correct original design that lacked attention to acoustics
- ▶ To repair or replace equipment that is broken, failing or lacks repair/tech support (no replacement parts).
- ▶ To replace the 20-year-old carpet
- ▶ To paint a neutral color in coordination with carpet choice, making sure color does not interfere with lighting or projection

Audio: Preach...what did they say?

- ▶ Because of initial sanctuary design, sound bounces around and off the walls, creating a subtle echo effect. This has resulted in some worshippers saying they cannot hear or clearly understand speakers/singers. If you pay attention to it, you will find that likely most worshippers are experiencing this.
- ▶ Choir in choir loft cannot hear anything that's said by any speakers in the service. That's why they come down during the sermon.
- ▶ In the current configuration the front rows are much louder than the back rows and balcony due to the positioning and aiming of the speakers. Also, a very strong reflection off of the back wall is problematic for the people on the altar platform.

Audio: Preach...what did they say?

- ▶ There are various issues with speakers that were improperly installed (those hung from the ceiling are too high), or have been discontinued (some parts no longer available) or have been repurposed (in order to try to fix all of the above). Original main speakers have been disconnected for 5 years. Portable speakers are now used.
- ▶ Mics: Podium mics work, though the connections and mounts are worn. Wireless and in-ear mics are newer; however capacity is maxed out without an antenna distribution system. Piano mic works, though it was never designed to be a piano mic (set up is cumbersome).
- ▶ Many mic inputs at the pulpit area no longer work.

Lighting: It's a little dark in here.

- ▶ Light positions are incorrect with unappealing angles to light the people in chancel area and choir loft.
- ▶ Out of date: Parts unavailable. What we have now is cobbled together. (ie. Colored lights at back of sanctuary were leftover from youth program and are plugged into a power strip).
- ▶ There aren't enough dimmer channels to light the stage properly, and the current dimmers are at end of life.
- ▶ Meanwhile, institute a regular system to have the overhead sanctuary and balcony lights replaced.

Projection: No band-aid big enough.

- ▶ Current screen is in poor location (over stained glass window). If you're sitting near the front, the speakers & pulpit obstruct your view
- ▶ Screen size and projector doesn't match the sanctuary space.
- ▶ On 3rd projector in 10 years The current projector works great, but still isn't installed in the most effective manner nor is it really bright enough. It is basically about the best we can do with the logistics of how and where it is installed.
- ▶ The signal/communication to the projector works, but has had to be repaired multiple times and is pretty well tapped out for quality.
- ▶ Motor that raises and lowers the screen is at end of life and often has to be manually adjusted.
- ▶ Because of increased use of visual aids during sermons, two screens should provide better viewing to congregation.

Carpet & Paint: It's time.

- ▶ A fourth to a third of the side walls and all of the back walls will be covered by fabric wrapped acoustical panels. This means a color will have to be chosen for the panels and a neutral color is best.
- ▶ Carpet is stained and worn. Replacement was on trustees' agenda. This of course means choosing a color.
- ▶ This presents an opportunity to go ahead and neutralize the color scheme. Paint coverage will be less since a goodly portion of the walls will be covered with acoustical panels. Media Merge says the blue wash of the color is not helping the light nor video/visual presentations.