

2018 Worship Center Repurposing Initiative Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why repurpose? Why can't we keep the Worship Center just as it is and just freshen it up and update the HVAC?**

The goal of the size and design of the Worship Center is always to bring glory to God and reach more people for Christ. In the 1980's and 90's the strategy for churches to reach "their Jerusalem" was a large place of worship with one service and it was an effective strategy for a number of years. But in recent years research has shown that people prefer smaller venues, community spaces, and options of worship times. By repurposing we are striving to provide a more intimate worship experience, better sight lines, improved technology, expanded community spaces and at least an option for a multi-service format if we so choose. By doing so we are preparing to reach more effectively our Jerusalem.

- **Why does repurposing the Worship Center cost so much?**

All parties have asked this question after initially hearing the estimated costs, and it's a good question. Our Executive staff, our Finance Committee, and our Deacon body all asked the same question and explored options in hopes of lowering costs before making this recommendation to the congregation. In projects past (e.g. Journey of Faith, Every Generation, etc.), we've usually been able to "phase" the project and so we've all wondered if there were a realistic way (that made good financial sense) to do that with this project as well. Unfortunately, with the number of necessary "must do's" (adding a fire suppression system, ADA compliance, HVAC replacement, etc.) adding up to nearly \$7 million when combined with replacing the 30-year-old worn out carpet and pews, it became clear we would be better stewards of Shades resources, future, and mission by pursuing a more complete repurposing. At that point, with the strong encouragement of both the Finance Committee and active Deacon body's unanimous recommendations to do so, we moved in the direction of the complete repurposing initiative that was presented and approved by the church this past Sunday evening (4/22/18).

- **Why should I/we consider supporting the initiative?**

Whatever we do in this initiative will set the footprint for ministry for at least the next 20 years. The expanded lobby space will provide a desired place for community. The changes in the Worship Center will enhance the worship experience and give a much needed flexibility for strategic ministry decisions. Combined, these will positively affect the growth of our church and our ability to effectively reach our Jerusalem with the Gospel of Jesus Christ both now and in the future.

- **Didn't we just get out of debt?**

The fact that we are debt free is why we can consider this next initiative. Being debt free has allowed us to take portions of last year's budget overage in giving and apply it to maintenance projects throughout our campus and put aside a large amount of funds to kick start this new initiative. We realize that the Worship Center is almost thirty years old and the wear and tear on the carpet and pews is more pronounced and the HVAC is past its expected life expectancy. Plus, we desire to get the 3rd, 4th, and 5th floors up to code for the safety of all our members and guests.

- **Over how many years will the repurposing initiative pledge commitment be made?**

Three years

- **Is the size of the Worship Center decreasing?**

We anticipate decreased seating of approximately 280+/-, however current obstructed seating in the fan banks will become more viable. (Note: Past ticketed event sales were based on a 2800 seat capacity.)

- **Will the pews be replaced with theatre seating? Are we going to donate or sell the pews?**
No theatre seating. We will replace the current pews with new pews. We will look to donate the pews that are in good shape to churches in need of pews.
- **What are the benefits of increasing the size of the Worship Center Lobby?**
A larger Worship Center lobby would greatly enhance the fellowship and flexibility aspects of our church. This would provide a warm, inviting environment for gathering and building relationships before and after services/events, as well as community spaces for everyday fellowship during the week. A larger Worship Center lobby would also create secondary spaces to better function with potential multi-service and multi-use formats.
- **What is the timeline for construction?**
Construction will begin March of 2019, following our Global Impact Celebration. Anticipated completion will be early to mid-August 2019.
- **Where will worship services be held during construction?**
Two services will run simultaneously in both the Conference Center and the Student Building. Danny will preach both services, rotating venues, preaching live in one venue and live streamed to the other venue. There will be live music in both venues leading the same song selection.
- **Will we have a choir during the construction/transition period?**
Absolutely! We are blessed with so much talent and such strong leaders among our amazing Shades Worship Choir. Our plan is to divide up and place smaller worship choirs in the midst of each worship environment.
- **Will we have baptisms during construction?**
We will have a portable baptistry. Baptisms will go on!
- **Besides worship services, what is the impact of construction on ministry spaces?**
During construction, there will certainly need to be some occasional adjustments made. We will do everything possible to mitigate disruption to ministry spaces; nevertheless, there will be times when we will have to hold a few events in alternate settings, and anticipate some temporary movement of some classrooms and other spaces during construction.
- **Are we going to two worship services after construction?**
Repurposing the Worship Center gives us the option to go to two worship services; it does not force us into two services. The repurposed size is adequate for one service. Just to be perfectly clear, whenever we even talk about two services, we envision two services identical to our present service. We are a multi-generational church and we are committed to continue to structure our worship services so we can continue to worship together. Our staff is studying and researching the option of going to two services versus remaining in one service. We want to be strategic in our decision and determine how our Sunday morning services can reach more people of all generations. Our hope is to have discussions with the church family in late Spring 2019 and gain a clear direction as we move into the repurposed Worship Center.
- **Didn't we just complete major HVAC work during the Chapters campaign?**
75 tons of HVAC equipment that heated and cooled the interior main Worship Center space were replaced during the Chapters campaign. 175 tons of the 250 tons of HVAC equipment supplying the perimeter hallways (and Welcome Center area) on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th floors of the Worship Center are original units (1989) and need to be replaced.
- **Why have we never had a sprinkler system in the Worship Center?**
It was not part of the building code at the time the Worship Center was built.

- **Will the sprinklers go off in the Worship Center when we use smoke effects for special events?**

Sprinklers are activated by intense heat and not by smoke.

- **Have we seen a reduction in costs since putting LED in other parts of the campus?**

Yes. We've seen reduction in our electric costs in addition to the savings realized in eliminated labor costs and bulb costs as a result of the 10-year warranty we now have on all our LED lighting.

- **What if I would like to give stocks, real estate, or some other kind of gift?**

Gifts other than cash can often be easily accepted. Please contact Tom Boston, Minister of Administration, for further discussion.

- **Will all Worship Center rooms be refurbished?**

Areas being refurbished will include the following rooms in the Worship Center building on 3rd, 4th, and 5th floors: Worship Room, Restrooms, Brides Room, Grooms Room, Baptism Meeting Room, Men's Baptistry, Women's Baptistry, and Sunday School rooms.

- **What will not be refurbished?**

Areas not being refurbished are the Worship Center building elevators, stairwells, as well as 3rd, 4th, and 5th floor storage rooms and storage closets.

- **Will the updated restrooms include handicap access and diaper changing stations?**

The restrooms on the 3rd floor will be enlarged to become ADA compliant (handicap accessible). The restrooms on the 4th and 5th floor will stay the same footprint but change to family restrooms to increase interior space. All restrooms will have diaper changing stations.

- **What about the sound issues in the Sunday School rooms on the 4th floor?**

The best way to make them more soundproof is to reduce their size to create thicker wall space. We will study that when we study the acoustics.

- **How many entrances will there be?**

The 3rd floor main level will have five large entrances. This is adequate for the size room.

- **What will happen to the stained glass windows on the side of the Worship Center as well as the stained glass panels in the area that is currently over the baptistry?**

The stained glass windows on the side of the Worship Center will remain. The area above the baptistry and stained glass panels will be removed in order to expand the size of the baptistry and make the baptistry the focal point. We are considering ways in which we could best repurpose these stained glass panels in another area(s) on our campus.

- **Why are we getting rid of the pipe organ?**

The Shades organ is a beautiful instrument and for its time, was considered among the top organs installed in several large Baptist churches of the late 1980s. But the challenges of a true pipe organ have never been a secret. Subject to changes from heat and humidity, the organ truly is at its best when played alone. Intonation (the ability to be played in tune) is a constant challenge given the vast Worship Center space where changes in temperature and moisture levels are in constant flux. Additionally, the cost and upkeep of an instrument which now has many parts that are obsolete continues to rise where the costs of electronic versions of the same sounds continues to decline. There are occasions where the organ sound is an added plus to the broad musical styles offered at Shades, but those sounds can now be created for a fraction of the cost and in perfect tune with the variety of instruments that surround it.

- **Can we sell the pipe organ? Can we sell the pipes?**

We are searching for a potential purchaser; however, we've already been advised there is not a market for used organs or organ pipes.

- **How much additional square footage will be added to the Worship Center Lobby area?**

Square footage will go from approximately 10,000 sq. ft. to 18,000 sq. ft.

- **Is the choir going to have to stand on risers during the whole service?**

There are a wide variety of riser options. If for standing only, the choir would exit before the message and sit in the congregation. Risers with seats are also an option.

- **Can we use Worship Center elevators during construction?**

During construction there will be limited to no access to the Worship Center 3rd, 4th, and 5th floor elevators. We are working through options for best circulation to the Worship Center 1st and 2nd floor.

- **If Repurposing would allow us to accommodate new people, what about parking?**

With our newly implemented shuttle system, recently improved and creative approaches to traffic circulation through our FIT and security teams, and potential off-campus parking options that can be explored, we are confident that our parking situation can accommodate all new people that the Lord brings our way!