

We've been asked a lot of great practical questions about fundraising and design.



Here we try to answer some of the most frequently asked.

Fundraising

How much do we need to raise to build it all?

About \$1.2 million (\$650k for the sanctuary, \$435,000 for the hall, + a contingency).

When will we start?

As soon as we have enough in gifts received, not just pledges made. A good guess would be in a year or two.

What if I can't give all at once?

That's OK. Most people are giving over a number of months or years.

Should the church take out a loan?

Probably not. We don't want repayments to hinder the regular running of the church and our mission. But, if we have enough pledges (and we're just waiting to receive the money), we might take out a small short-term loan if the timing makes sense.

What if we don't raise it all?

We'll poll those who gave and ask for their opinion, then the Vestry will make the best decision they can. For example, we might complete one room and make some changes to the other (windows, doors, lights, etc.).

If I can only give to the annual costs of running the church or to the building development, which should I pick?

The annual cost of running the church. We need every dollar to run the church, and we're still facing inflation.

Why are we not pushing for money/can't you push a bit more?

We really want everyone to think about this for themselves, understand the needs of others, and then give cheerfully as they feel led by the Lord. We believe a non-anxious approach will help us to discern what God wants us to do together.

We'll start to speak more clearly and more frequently about this from the front as the commitment deadline nears.

Has the road project had an impact on the building project?

Yes. Being out of the building longer than expected hit the level of response, so we've **pushed back the response deadline to September 16**. Now we're back in, seeing the improvements to the road is creating a better sense of what we might achieve inside and how great it would be to have it all done.

Are we using building fund money to pay for the road?

No. We saved up for the road project separately for several years from unexpected surpluses.

How is the campaign going?

OK. We've received 33 pledges so far, for a total of \$243,000.

Some are for smaller amounts from former members who have moved away but wanted to encourage us and give in thanks for their time here. Most of our active members have yet to respond, but that's fairly typical for our church at this stage in a campaign.

Those who have responded are pledging roughly similar amounts to what they give in a typical year. The average building fund gift from active members is \$8,000, so although it's a bit early to say for sure, if everyone did this, we'd get a lot done.

Design Questions

Why are we building something that looks so similar to what we already have?

Much of the cost is to deal with deferred maintenance (plaster, paint, electrics, HVAC etc.), so those things don't need to look any different. As for the improvements (accessibility, sound, light etc.), we want to preserve the look of our existing church as much as possible so that it still feels the same, albeit as a far more functional, flexible space.

Why is the design not bigger?

We've been asked about adding an extra balcony, or even a much bigger sanctuary. These are good ideas and still part of our long-term hope. But in this economic climate, we think it's asking a bit too much. The proposed improvements allow for expansion later.

Why are there not enough chairs/why are there so many chairs?

It's just a concept drawing to show what it could look like. We could easily add chairs for large groups such as the Advent choir, or a Saturday service, and take some away for regular Sunday mornings. There will be storage for them just behind the organ pipes.

Is this the actual furniture we will buy?

Probably not. The concept rendering shows the chairs and side tables we currently have in the parlor, but the real ones might come from a liturgical supplier. The chancel carpet will probably be plain red like the aisle, but we wanted to see an oriental rug, as the original house had one.

Why aren't we getting rid of the pews in the nave?

Although pews aren't a traditional form of church seating, they are authentic to the age and design of our building. They're also an efficient form of seating for busy days like Christmas Eve when we need to squeeze a lot of people in. In a large sanctuary, chairs make sense, but we need to maximize seating here.

Why are things missing (aisle candelabra, hangings, flowers, etc.)?

The concept drawing is very simplified and does not show every detail, but we'll still have all these things. We didn't want the image tied to just one liturgical season (if you're giving at Easter but looking at an Advent wreath, it would be weird).

Why is the Lord's Table so far forward/not far forward enough?

The traditional Anglican place for a Lord's Table is as close to the congregation as possible with the communion rail right at the edge of the transept, but the precise location in every church is governed by the actual space you have. If you look closely at the renderings of the sanctuary you can see we have in fact drawn the table in two different locations, with a different shaped platform either behind or underneath it. Once built, we'll place the Lord's Table as close to the correct position as we can.

Why is there just one podium lectern?

Again, it's just a concept drawing. Ideally we would have two, one for readings, announcements and prayer, and one for preaching. This would allow the Lord's Table to be even closer to the congregation and give a better balance to the space. However, some of the more detailed decisions will have to be worked out once it's built and we can understand sight lines, camera angles, the needs of all three services, and things like that. We'll be building several microphone ports into the floor so that we can try out several different configurations.

Will there be an organ?

Yes, if we raise enough money. It's hard to see it, but the console is drawn in just behind the piano. It's a bit smaller and more maneuverable than our current one, so that it no-longer detracts from the prominence of the Lord's Table.

Will there still be chandeliers?

Yes. We're keeping the two above the chancel, but removing the two above the transept, so that they no-longer dazzle people in the balcony. We'll be adding recessed dimmable lighting so that light is more evenly distributed throughout the room.

Are we getting a new grand piano?

Maybe. Again it depends on fundraising and actual space, but a larger instrument with the ability to plug it into the sound system would be far better for our room.

Is accessibility really a problem?

Yes, it's a huge problem. It's sad to prevent people from coming to the Lord's Table if we have the means of fixing that, especially as we have created accessible solutions almost everywhere else on the first floor. The current lay out is also incredibly impractical: servers cannot get past each other at Communion, and those receiving have to wait awkwardly to access the rail.

Will I still be able to use the balcony?

Yes, in fact it will be more comfortable and have better visibility and better sound.

How does the school next door feel about not having a stage in the hall?

They like the idea. The stage is too high for younger students, and too large for the room. The smaller, more flexible stage suits us all.

Where exactly will Children's Ministry be?

Children will still use the hall, courtyard, and playground, but in addition they will have a new dedicated Children's Ministry room behind the blue wall in the drawings.