

Holy Cross Sanctuary Project – Congregational Meetings Jan 2025 / FAQ

#	Category	Question	Response
	Financial	Do we have a funding plan?	Yes. It's in process, and will include member pledges and some borrowing.
		Do we have a plan for funding Phases II-III, as it seems we'd be likely to continue	We will address in similar fashion at the time, should those ever be approved to proceed. (No commitment is being made for Phases II-III.)
		Do we understand the added costs this brings over time? (Financing, maintenance, & replacements of tech items and chairs/ fabric)	We have considered in our evaluation. Limited added cost in initial years.
		Are we making a choice between the Sanctuary & a second pastor? Is it that we can do one but not the other?	The cost of a 2 nd pastor runs about \$8k/month; the added financing cost to renovate is < \$2k/month; they're not equal. Without sizable increase in giving we're not in a position for a 2 nd pastor at this time.
		If we're running a \$50k operating deficit in 2024, is this a responsible time to proceed?	We ended December 2024 strong, and are at ~ (\$25K) deficit. Without the 2 nd pastor, we are running at pace to be breakeven or better.
	Chairs/Pews	Why are we shifting from pews to chairs?	Comfort; more attractive to non-churchgoers; more flexible space
		How does this change our seating capacity, especially for RCLS?	Today our capacity is about 354 under building code, though realistically it is ~330 if mix of kids & adults. Chairs in front right would add 46 (400 total). Replacing pews in back would result in 301 chairs (347 with chairs in front right). We've opened the dialogue with RCLS; they need to address this either way as

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			they're over capacity today. For HC, we average ~137 per service and the largest Christmas service was ~200 so capacity isn't a concern (can also do 2 services, etc.).
		What are we going to do with the pews?	We've discussed offering them to congregants, or to someone who may find use for the wood.
		We need to recognize the chairs are going to be temporary, even though of good quality. They won't look as nice in 10 years. With pews that's not the case.	Agree, the need for replacement will exist down the road. However, the pews are also in disrepair, and require work. We are at a point where it is appropriate to consider the change.
	Worship style	Will we go more contemporary with worship? We're not 'that' today.	Not in current plans. One possibility could be two services, one more traditional, but just an idea so far
	Platform & People on Platform	People on platform block the view of the LED Wall for any in front few pews	LED wall would be more to set environment than specific words; words could be at top of screen which s/b OK if standing. We also still have side screens.
		Could we move Platform upgrade to Phase I?	Would provide more space immediately; but current plan allows for use of platform by worship team to ease in or reverse if it proves problematic
		Could platform stay multi-level?	Current plan provides the most usable space
		Concerned with worship team on platform; as much as you try for it to be worship, the mentality becomes a concert, and the congregation the audience.	Churchfront has helped us see that the worship team are ministers of the Word, and need to carry the message and meaning in all they do. Our outdoor worship does not seem like a performance though team is in front/center. It also creates more engagement, which is a key goal. That said – we have heard your concerns, and

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			will be keeping the worship team where they are today, in the right front location.
		With altar, we won't be able to see people behind it	Singers/leaders should be in front if we were to move this direction.
	Purpose/Goals	How does this represent our values? Does the new space have meaning we can articulate?	We believe HC has a value of contemporary worship, and is perceived that way in community. Excellence in worship – true, authentic worship – is a key goal.
		Are we trying to “stay trendy”? Young people don't seek more technology (lights/bells/whistles), they're overstimulated today. They seek authenticity and a link to something permanent.	Some may not, but based on observations at other churches some do. We can serve both; we have the words of eternal life, which do not change.
		Can we take some time to look at our doctrinal stance?	We can; but it shouldn't impact this initial phase of the project.
	LED Screen & Back Monitors	Do we need the LED wall? It feels like it will be distracting from the words, message, & leaders on the platform.	It can enhance the experience; consider the Open Tomb, or the manger scene.
		What will be the monitor in back? Shift front screen or a larger TV? With larger words?	Either the larger screen or TV monitor; still would not block stained glass, though may be above it if a TV (which is less expensive). Screen requires another hanging projector.
		If we install the LED wall would we need the corner screens?	Yes, the people sitting toward the front sides would not be able to make out the LED wall from their angle
	Growth / Attracting young people	Are we prioritizing right if we don't get a 2 nd pastor to serve the youth/young families?	Financial concerns and size of congregation are two issues to resolve prior to proceeding with 2 nd pastor. We added a music ass't to give Cindy time to help serve KidzAlive.

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		Do we know why people aren't coming? Assertion is it could be lack of community in the church. If our goal is to get more people in, than this isn't it; requires a parallel, slightly different conversation.	Agree that there is more required . than new tech and change in worship team location. Our focus on Discipleship includes opportunities to engage with other members via small groups & fellowship opportunities. May require added study.
		What are we doing to bring in new families or young people? What are we doing to extend the great commission, isn't that our goal?	It is, and we have many activities in this space outside of the Sanctuary Project. For example, in 2024 our theme emphasis was on Evangelism; and we initiated the Joining Jesus seminars and monthly calls. We also hosted an "Apple of His Eye" weekend with a weekend community walk; and our Ruby's Pantry and Careportal ministries are directly serving those in need around us. There is more; but also always more each of us can do. The Sanctuary Project is intended to show new people a welcoming environment, and doesn't come at the expense of these other initiatives.
	Phases	Appreciate we're doing it in phases	Thank you.
		If the sound system is dying we should move it ahead of the LED wall	It is something we have considered; if we don't proceed with chairs in front east, there is less need, and small investments may extend the life. It is also mainly maintenance and can be handled separately if need be.
		Have we thought of breaking up Phase I if too expensive?	Not at this time; items listed are linked in some ways
		If we vote to approve Phase I, does that mean we are likely to do Phase II and III?	Each can stand alone; would require Council or congregation approval to move ahead with large investments/ changes.

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	Décor / "Contemporize"	Have we considered other options to "contemporize", like lightening up the wood paneling?	Not at this time; will add to Trustees list for consideration.
	Voting	Will this be at the annual meeting?	Yes. Council approved to bring to the Congregation for a vote.
		When the vote takes place, will proxy's be available?	We currently plan to hold a vote at the Annual Meeting on February 2. Virtual attendees can vote as in prior years; we do not plan to incorporate proxy votes at this time.
		How many votes are needed for the renovation to be approved?	The Bylaws only require a simple majority to approve projects like this. However, we plan to require 75% of members who vote in order to seek unity.
	Earlier Decisions	Can we keep use of the kneeling rails?	Yes, we plan to maintain a way to use them as desired
		What do we plan to do with the altar?	We plan to keep the altar in a central location, similar to today
		Are we keeping the cross at the center of the Sanctuary?	Yes, no change is being made to the cross.
		Will this cover the stained glass windows?	The 2 nd screen will be in the northwest corner, similar to the existing screen. Both are retractable; we are not making changes which would permanently cover the stained glass windows.