



REACH. TEACH. PRAISE. SERVE.
MATTHEWS UNITED METHODIST

Questions We Hear You Asking - 2024 Capital Campaign Sanctuary & Auxiliary Space Improvements

9/17/24 – Featuring Ramp vs Lift (#1 Asked Question) with Updated Renderings

Q1. Why add a lift vs. a ramp? (#1 most frequently asked)

Many people asked about this during our Feasibility Study focus groups. After further review with the architects, the Building Committee decided that a ramp would actually be a better solution for the project. Everyone can use the ramp, regardless of their mobility and type of assistance (e.g., wheelchair, scooter, rollator, walker, cane). It also allows for multiple users, while the lift can only accommodate one person at a time. Once the ramp is installed, it should require no ongoing maintenance. A mechanical lift must be maintained and monitored for operability, which may incur additional costs. If the lift malfunctions, there would be no alternative accessibility to the Chancel area other than steps. Even though the ramp takes up more space, the Building Committee has determined that our Sanctuary will be able to accommodate it. **Updated Architectural Renderings:**



MATTHEWS UMC SANCTUARY RENOVATIONS | Matthews, NC
Concept Design - August 2024



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Q2. Can you share the results of surveys?

We presented the proposed projects, totaling roughly two million dollars, to 23 separate focus groups and surveyed the congregation for their feedback. Over 450 people attended the presentations and 263 responses to the survey were returned.

The results from these surveys are as follows:

- 86% of respondents were “positive” or “very positive” about the plan
- 77.5% were “confident” or “very confident” that MUMC could raise the \$2.0 million over a three-year giving period
- 87% were “willing” or “very willing” to financially support the plan, in addition to their current annual giving
- 178 respondents indicated their potential gift would fall within a specified dollar range

Generosity Development (Sean Mitchell and Jim Holladay), our stewardship consultants whom we engaged for this project tallied up those potential gifts, using a conservative estimate for each giving range, projected that we might receive almost \$1.0 million, or half of our overall goal. Based on all the information they have received and their expertise, the consultants conveyed a high confidence level in MUMC’s ability to raise funds to meet or possibly exceed the goal and recommended that we proceed confidently with the capital campaign.

Q3. How will the Sanctuary improvements benefit the 8:15 and 9:30 services?

During the **8:15 service**, Music Ensembles will have more space, and all will have access to the Chancel handrails when going up and down stairs to read scripture or participate in segments of worship. In addition, one of our regular 8:15 lay readers utilizes a wheelchair and would be better accommodated as part of the service. Many of our older members who attend this service will definitely benefit from the improved sound system and brilliant colored LED screens. A specific hearing aid system to enhance sound for people with auditory devices will also be installed. The newest hearing aids are usually equipped with this technology.

During the **9:30 service**, Instrumentalists will finally have space to be together -- drum kit positioned toward front, synthesizer close to the piano player, and bass/acoustic guitarists closer to the other instruments. Removing dividing walls between musicians and instruments will enhance sound. Praise Team singers move forward, closer to the congregation for more engaging worship. Lyrics will be more legible on new LED screens, which is imperative because the Hymnal is not an option during this hour. All technology and sound systems/microphone and monitor cables will be hidden, creating fewer tripping hazards. And there will be plenty of floor jacks for all connections. The improved sound system will greatly enhance the contemporary instruments and vocals. With new lighting, we will also have the ability to set different moods for the contemporary service, i.e. color and directional focus. With all these upgrades, live stream will be much more modern looking and updated.

Q4. Where will worship take place during construction and for how long?

The timeline is still in flux based on the scope of the work, but our goal is to only be displaced from the Sanctuary with worship held in the Gym & Commons space for a few Sundays. We will have a better idea in the next phase, when a construction schedule is projected, and will share those details once they are available.

Q5. Why wasn't this project more focused on meeting disabled persons' needs? Lenten study led people to believe that it would be mostly about accessibility for that community.

The feasibility/capital formation project was developed and charged by the Ad Council nearly two years ago. Initially, the big piece around the project was our 30-year-old HVAC (heat/air) equipment that was costing us

thousands of dollars in repairs, and on the brink of permanent failure. It was the appointed Building Committee that broadened the focus to include both accessibility/inclusion and worship/arts early on in our discussions. So, for the last nearly 2 years the Building Committee (as charged by the Ad Council) has focused on three important items (accessibility/inclusion, worship/arts and heat/air).

The Embracing Disabilities Lenten study came later, with no plan to follow the series with a feasibility study around capital formation. It was completely by accident that Embracing Disabilities happened concurrently with our feasibility efforts ... or most likely, a move of the Holy Spirit.

Q6. Why wasn't there more participation from members of the disabled community?

Our goal is to do better integrating the disability community into our planning process. Grace Trumpower is now serving on the building committee and providing critical feedback as we develop further details. During the feasibility study process, we had input from Laurie Little and Rachel Ladnier. Rachel has a Masters Degree in Social Work from UNC Charlotte and has a breadth of knowledge in the area of disability studies. She is part of the Rainbow Express community and helped educate us on the topic of disability at Leadership Connection a number of years ago. Rachel's mom also served on the building committee for Calvary Church and was part of the decision-making process around disability efforts for their sanctuary.

Q7. Why will handbells be placed behind the choir? And how will someone with disabilities be able to join them, if interested?

The handbells are in the back row in the renderings for placement during rehearsal. When the Bells play in any service, they will be in a U shape on the main chancel level. And if there is a time when Bells, Orchestra and Choir are united on a song, they will play from the top row of risers behind the choir.

Handbells as they are structured are not conducive for a person in a wheelchair to play. They must be able to stand above the level of the table and be able to swing bells back and forth as one of the many techniques used to play. A person with a disability who is not in a wheelchair, however, would still be able to participate.

Q8. Will security be addressed with this project?

Safety & security is something we take seriously at all times. As this project approaches, our Facilities staff, with the input of Rob Hunter, a church & staff member and former Matthews Police Chief, will work to plan & provide recommendations to maintain a safe & secure campus throughout the project period. Throughout the year, an off-duty police officer is present from 9 am to 12:30 pm on Sundays and is tasked with walking the campus and driving the parking lot. Cameras are installed across campus and there is a panic system with quiet alerts to immediately notify authorities. Ushers, Age-Level Ministries and Facilities constantly stay connected through a walkie-talkie system on Sundays. Throughout the week, external doors on campus are locked, with visitors being buzzed into the Chapel Entrance. Please direct any additional questions to our Facilities staff.

Q9. Will the altar table be on wheels/castors for ease of movement?

Currently, there are sliders on the feet of the altar table, and with new smoother floor it will be much easier to move the table.

Q10. Will the new composite floor handle the weight requirements?

It will be the responsibility of the architect to ensure the choices made will meet weight requirement needs.

Q11. Will the new sound system in sanctuary have a hearing aid compatibility component?

A specific hearing aid system will be installed to enhance sound for people with auditory devices. The newest hearing aids are usually equipped with this technology.

Q12. Will we be able to accommodate Christmas decorations in the new space, with the necessary electrical wiring for the tree, wreaths and hanging star?

The initial plans provided do not seem to eliminate the ability to accommodate our current decorations. This will be kept in mind as plans progress.

Q13. Shouldn't we install motion access vs. push button access on the doors to sanctuary and bathrooms?

We will request this of the architect for doors that are appropriate for the wave style operators, all may not be.

Q14. Can the scope of ADA improvements be increased to include automatic doors on all entrances and wheelchair accessible bathrooms across the campus?

The original scope of work was to include the failing HVAC system and Sanctuary Area. We can ask the architect to review all other bathroom doors, and bathroom configurations, for estimates of cost to remodel as needed to accommodate this request. Consideration for these additional projects will likely need to be funded out of "gifts over and above what is necessary for the initial planned scope of work" provided we raise more money than planned. The church could also explore this being funded incrementally out of regular Trustee ReFresh & ReNew funds, as available.

Q15. Can we increase the number of handicapped spaces in the Sanctuary, with better signing for all designated areas? Currently it looks like they are positioned behind the pillars.

New signage has now been added for wheelchair accessible spaces with designated pews for families. We can combine this request with the automatic door request to have the architect offer recommendations.

Q16. Can we include any of the following improvements as well in this project?

- **Make stairs behind the Reredos (cross at front of sanctuary) safer for choir members and staff to access chancel space**

This could be added as a request for the architect to review and offer recommendations. In the meantime, we have also been working with our Trustees Committee Chairperson, Handyman Ministry and head of Facilities who have agreed to install temporary stairs to accommodate the necessary improvements.

- **Light up the stained-glass windows to make them more visible and impactful**

Facilities has recently worked to replace bulbs and light the only window that was not functioning. Additional work is not currently in the scope of the capital campaign.

- **Improve the Wi-Fi capacity and performance throughout the church**

As we understand from Matt Harvey, our contracted IT professional, the campus Wi-Fi is at its max and is not in the scope of work for the capital campaign.

- **Add a covered portico to Sanctuary Entrance from the small parking lot, to protect disabled and elderly worship attendees from the elements**

This could be added as a request for the architect to investigate and offer options with budget estimates.

Q17. How will other priorities that have been identified be addressed outside of this campaign? Can we see a list with estimated costs?

The Trustees do not have a finite list of projects with cost estimates at this time, but will be developing order of magnitude costs for big projects such as parking lot replacement, roof replacement, etc.

Q18. If we were to reach our financial goal and possibly go over, how would the money be used?

Our Board of Trustees is already at work preparing for improvements. To be consistent with the spirit of the planned work in the Sanctuary, the Trustees have recommended additional automatic door operators for ease of access. They have also identified additional bathrooms that need improvements to make them accessible to people using wheelchairs. In addition, there are other opportunities to make improvements to accessibility and useability for people to come to the church that are not included in the initial scope of work. The Trustees have also identified a need to update many of the classrooms. Recommended improvements include flooring, painting, ceiling tiles, chairs & tables, and improved storage systems.