

# Feasibility Study FAQs for Sanctuary & Auxiliary Space Improvements

4/12/24

## **Q1. Why and when did this project begin to be considered by Church Leaders?**

A. The genesis was almost 2 years ago. The drivers from the beginning have been making the Chancel Area and the entire Sanctuary more ADA compliant, as well as replacing our HVAC system, which is over 10 years past its useful life, very inefficient and costly to maintain.

## **Q2. How was the Building Committee put together?**

A. When the ADA compliance and HVAC issues were brought to the attention of the Key Leaders, they knew we could not fund them through regular sources. With the approval of the Key Leaders and Administrative Council, a Building Committee was formed and funding was allocated to pay an architectural firm to come up with plans, so we could go to the market and get an idea of pricing.

## **Q3. How long has the Building Committee been working?**

A. Almost 2 years now.

## **Q4. Why consider this project now?**

A. Worship is a foundational component of our mission to reach, teach, praise and serve. Advancing, improving and expanding all aspects of the worship experience are critical to our success. HVAC is an urgent need that we must address, and MUMC's commitment to persons with disabilities has always been at the core of who we are, so the Chancel Area and Sanctuary in general need to be ADA compliant.

## **Q5. How and when will we raise the money to fund the project?**

A. If the Feasibility Study supports the decision to initiate a capital campaign, we hope to kick it off this fall. In order to accomplish these plans, Matthews UMC will need to raise roughly \$2 million over three years. The church may get a temporary loan so construction can start before all the pledged payments are received.

## **Q6. When could the refurbishment begin?**

A. HVAC is one of the priorities driving this Feasibility Study. Fortunately, we have \$428,000 in hand that we can allocate for this project from our Employee Retention Credit funds, which will cover 80 - 85% of the estimated cost for this project. This is a great start toward achieving our financial goals. The first funds received from a Capital Campaign would go to finalize payment of this project and allow us to begin this replacement before the end of the year.

## **Q7. What ADA compliant changes are being considered?**

A. A wheelchair lift on the right side of the chancel area, push-button door openers on the Sanctuary doors, as well as the nearby bathrooms, and a Chancel Area that is one level with a smooth(er) surface.

## **Q8. What audio visual changes are being considered for the Sanctuary?**

A. We have a full set of plans from CODA (the contractor who did such a good job for us on The Commons and Gym) that anyone can review. The big things are replacing the projection screens with LED displays, replacing all the lighting, upgrading our sound system and replacing our antiquated organ.

## **Q9. Why do we need to replace our organ?**

A. It is over 25 years old and we have spent thousands of dollars replacing circuit boards, which are failing. Only two people in the Carolinas know how to repair this organ, both of whom drive 2.5 hours each way, which also adds to the cost of upkeep. On multiple Sundays, the instrument wouldn't play, and worship plans had to be altered at the last minute as well.

**Q10. How much more efficient will the new HVAC system be?**

A. We expect to save 30% on energy bills for the Sanctuary. In addition, maintenance costs should be much lower with the new system. Humidity will also be more tightly controlled, leading to less piano tuning, and other moisture-impacted areas (carpet, etc).

**Q11. What other changes to the Sanctuary are being considered?**

A. We are hoping to paint the Sanctuary and replace the very old, worn choir chairs.

**Q12. If we were to reach our financial goal and possibly go over, how would the money be used?**

A. To be consistent with the spirit of the planned work in the Sanctuary, the Trustees have recommended additional accessibility and usability improvements that are not included in the current project scope, e.g., more automatic door operators and wheelchair accessible bathrooms. They have also identified a need to update many of our classrooms with new flooring, paint, ceiling tiles, chairs, tables, and improved storage systems.

**Q13. How will the proposed work strengthen each worship experience, including CCH (Spanish-speaking worship), Contemporary and Traditional?**

A.

1. Instrumentalists will finally have space to be closer together, with no more dividing walls between different musicians and instruments.
2. It brings the singers forward, closer to the congregation, for more engaging worship while accommodating the various instrumentalists in each service and groups like handbells which require enough room for tables.
3. The stairs and arrangement of the space will be made safer with more optimal sound and sightlines (for the congregation and for the choir/instrumentalists to the conductor) as well as being able to accommodate everyone on the choir roster at one time, which is currently not possible.
4. LED screens will replace the projected image and greatly enhance the worship experience with high-definition visuals, unobscured by the changing sunlight each morning.
5. All technology cables will be hidden and there will be plenty of in-floor jacks for those connections.
6. The improved sound system will greatly enhance both instruments and vocals.
7. With new lighting, we will be able to set different moods for contemporary services through the use of color and directional focus.
8. With all these upgrades, livestream will also be more modern-looking and updated.

**Q14: When will we have final results from the Feasibility Study?**

A. Data will be compiled and submitted to the Administrative Council by the beginning of June. If a capital campaign is deemed to be appropriate, a Charge Conference will then be held to approve its commencement.

**Q15: Will the church still have a ReFresh & ReNew campaign, in addition to a Capital Campaign?**

A. That option will be removed from the pledge cards during an approved capital campaign, but will still remain on the website. Any funds designated specifically to ReFresh & ReNew will go towards other projects identified by the Trustees to maintain or update the church's facilities.

***Have another question?***

Send email to [questions@matthewsumc.org](mailto:questions@matthewsumc.org), and we will respond as soon as possible.