

Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Sanctuary Project

1. If I have a question regarding the project, who should I ask?

Anyone on the Sanctuary Committee is available to answer your questions. Members include: David Kniepkamp, Doug Nitz, Julie Nitz, Jeff Papka, Dan Ragen, Josh Tinney. Pastor Spelbring and Ryan Meyer also serve on the committee; however, out of respect for their ministries, we ask that you contact one of the other members.

2. When and how did this project get started?

The original work was established in 2016, when Pastor Downs and the Ministry Leadership Group approved the formation of a Sanctuary Committee with the purpose of upgrading the sanctuary. Significant work was completed by the committee; however, due to church monetary issues, COVID and leadership health issues the committee work was halted.

In 2024, after the church mortgage was paid off, the Ministry Leadership Group voted to re-start the work of the Sanctuary Committee. A new committee was established and began meeting at the end of October. The committee has continued meeting, contacting contractors, getting bids, and formalizing plans for the project.

3. What does the project entail?

The project will update the church Sanctuary and the Narthex. The pews will be dismantled and removed. They will be taken to the contractor's business where they will be stripped and restored with new cushions. A work crew from the same company will strip and stain the wood in the Sanctuary and Narthex. New chancel furniture including a new baptismal font, lectern, altar and upgrading the pulpit will be a part of the project. Flooring upgrades including Luxury Vinyl Tile and carpeting will be laid prior to the re-installation of the new furniture and pews. A re-designed Praise Band area with accompanying storage will create more usable space. Finally, depending on funding, video boards are being considered to replace the current screen.

4. What is the anticipated cost of the project?

In our presentation to the voters, the committee asked for and received approval for funding "not to exceed 10% more than the estimated \$550,000 projected cost to complete the project."

5. Is the congregation taking out a loan to pay off the project?

No, it is the hope of the Zion leadership and the Ministry Leadership Group that the project will be paid off at the conclusion of the work. We ask that all Zion members prayerfully consider helping support the Sanctuary upgrades.

6. Where are we going to hold our regular church services during the work and how long will the services be displaced?

If all work schedules start as anticipated, church services will be held in the school gymnasium beginning June 21st. Completing all the projected work will require over two months. The work is scheduled to begin the week of Monday, June 15th. We anticipate the work being completed by the end of August; therefore, we are anticipating being back in the Sanctuary, Sunday, September 6th.

7. What are the accessibility plans and seating opportunities available for the handicapped and elderly?

Plans are still being formalized for all special needs individuals. Congregation members interested in working to assist this planning are encouraged to contact committee members or sign up the sign-up sheets.

8. Can you explain how the color combinations were selected?

This process has been on-going for several years. Zion has such a beautiful worship space that we wanted the colors to enhance our sanctuary. The blue and grey tones will help to tame down the orange and yellows that are in the brick. The blue accents in the stain glass windows, banners and organ pipes are a good example of how the vibrant blue looks in our worship space. We also took into consideration a carpet and tile color that will help hide the dirt and asphalt stains which are very difficult issue to deal with on a daily basis. The wood work color chosen is browner to enhance the new flooring colors as well as toning down the orange brick color. If you notice the new cabinets and welcome center that were installed in the narthex a few years ago, that will give you a good idea of the new color of the pews and woodwork. The cross above the altar and the ceiling will remain the current color. **(NOTE: Artist renderings available on church website.)**

9. How did the committee settle on Wood Renovators to perform the sanctuary work?

The committee researched multiple ways of updating the sanctuary furniture and pews. Members looked at purchasing new altar furniture and pews from multiple online sources. The committee also researched and met with companies who could perform refinishing work on the pews. In the end, Wood Renovators stood out for their ability to not only refinish and repair the pews, but also to custom make the altar furniture, making our furniture unique to Zion and not a "cookie cutter design" off the Internet. Wood Renovators also has an excellent reputation for honoring the sanctity of the worship spaces they work in and the committee was able to see samples of the work they had constructed.

10. How can I get involved in the project?

As most of you realize, this is going to be a massive project for our congregation. All volunteers to help transition church services from the sanctuary to the school gym will be greatly appreciated. Of special interest are individuals willing to lead a project. All interested individuals will be a blessing to this undertaking. Information sheets spelling out the established sub-committees and work details will be available in the Narthex. Sign-up sheets will also be available on-line through the church website.