

Frequently Asked Questions

WORSHIP CENTER RENEWAL



How will the Worship Center Renewal help us accomplish our mission to love God, love others, and make disciples of Jesus?

The Worship Center Renewal Project will give Bethel a worship space that will facilitate ministry to people in person and online and increase the potential uses of the space while making accomplishing ministry easier for volunteers with greater control, flexibility, and storage.

Couldn't we just leave the Worship Center the way it is?

We could, but with the rapidly changing needs in current ministry our space will increasingly become something we have to "work around" rather than one that facilitates ministry. The worship service is often the first place a person is introduced to Bethel. Renewing the worship center will help Bethel make that first impression feel relevant for years to come with an updated space and technology.

Is there a way the project could be completed in stages or broken into smaller parts?

No, because addressing the lighting and projection concerns involves bringing the ceiling up to code. It would add redundancy and therefore cost and time to break the project into parts.

Is there any way we could reduce cost by doing some of the work ourselves?

Much of the work is going to be in the ceiling, but we can probably do some of the demolition (carpet and pew removal).

Is debt a good idea?

The elders have wrestled in prayer about this and feel that with current strong financial position of the church the level of debt we are proposing is within safe and reasonable limits. However, we are committed to paying the debt off quickly and would love to take no debt if the money comes in.

Why is the project so expensive?

The target price of \$875,000 is a significant amount of money. A sizeable portion of that money will be spent to bring the existing structure up to code (ceiling and platform) in order to make the necessary updates.

Why is the cross being moved to the side? Does that mean we don't think it is important anymore?

The cross is moving to the side so that we can have one, high quality, point of projection with additional storage behind it. By moving the screen to the center, we will be moving the Scripture, which often is on the screen, to the center of the space. We will always make what Jesus did on the cross central in our worship and it will still be displayed prominently in the Worship Center.

Why can't we keep the pews?

The pews limit the overall flexibility of the Worship Center. Replacing them with chairs will enable the space to be used in different ways for events (The *No Regrets Conference* or the *Art of Marriage Conference*) and special worship configurations. We estimate with the pews we can seat about 360 people, the configuration in the plan has 340 chairs with room to add more if needed.

What will happen to the pews?

If we move forward, we will seek a way to dispose of the pews. Ideally, we would like to find another church or ministry who could use them.

Why not keep the stained glass?

The stained glass is shrinking and starting to sliver. It also contributes to an overall darker worship space. Removing the stained glass and adding controllable window treatments will help lighten up the space and increase the flexibility of the space for events and alternate worship experiences (Good Friday).

What percentage of a vote do we need to move forward with the project?

The elders would like to see at least a 75% vote in order to move the project forward. For context we require a 66% vote (by our Constitution) to call a pastor. We greatly desire to move this effort forward as a unified congregation.

When would the project begin? How long will it take?

We hope as soon as this summer, but that date could change based on the availability of builders and materials. The builder who provided the estimate said that they estimate a four-month build time. During the build the Worship Center will have to be closed.

Where will we gather to worship if the Worship Center is closed? Will we still live-stream the service?

We will make use of the Great Hall for worship services. We will continue to live-stream our Sunday morning worship services during the completion of the project for those who aren't able to come to worship in-person. We would also likely have some change to Connections classes because of the Worship Center being closed. If we move forward, we will develop a plan for this.

Will Connections classes still meet in the Worship Center after the renewal?

Yes, we will be adding a semi-permanent wall in each of the wings, which will help with sound control and enhance the Connection class experience in those spaces.

