

Worship Center Renewal

PROJECT PROPOSAL



Who is Bethel?

Bethel is a long-term, multi-generational, Evangelical Free church serving southern Minnesota and northern Iowa seeking to love God, love others, and make disciples of Jesus so that God is glorified, our communities are blessed, and people are transformed by Jesus.

What is a worship space?

- A worship space is a tool for ministry.
- It is a space we gather to worship.
- It is a “front door” for people.
- It is a space for special life events (weddings/funerals) and other activities (VBS, musicals, etc).

Throughout its history Bethel has taken steps of faith to meet ministry needs of the church and the surrounding community.



Bethel purchased the property at 1125 S. State street in 1962 because its current facility was becoming inadequate to meet the ministry needs.



Today the nursery, Friendship Room, elevator, & downstairs classrooms occupy the space.



Bethel took a loan for \$125,000 from Christian Investors to complete the project



The current Worship Center was built in 1983-1984 to accommodate the needs of a numerically growing church family.



Average attendance grew from 219 in 1980 to 280 by 1983.



Bethel took a loan for 610% of the annual budget to complete the project.



The Great Hall was built in 1995-1996 in order to provide more classroom, ministry and activity space.



Today the preschool, FCS, AWANA, youth group, basketball & community groups use the Great Hall.



Bethel took a loan for 231% of the annual budget to complete the project.

In 2019, Bethel started collecting money and exploring what it would take to renew our Worship Center space. We identified some preliminary needs.

- Carpet worn out and needs replacement
- Platform not meeting current ministry needs
- Lack of storage requires extra time and effort for volunteers
- Environment dark with insufficient lighting for people
- Inadequate to poor lighting on platform
- Projectors worn out and failing
- Space is limited to single use configuration
- Sound bleed over distracting for people in classes
- Baptistry creates safety concerns with children
- Overall interior decoration look is dated

A team of people with various areas of experience and giftedness was put together who started working and discovered some other things as they worked.

- Carpet squares better for long term maintenance
- Flat platform needs sound dampening
- Any front of platform work requires ADA compliance which means elevator or ramp
- Adding storage possible in stage right exit as exit was/is not necessary
- Present auditorium lighting 1/3 to 1/4 of current standards
- Any changes to ceiling mounted lights or fixtures requires roof to be brought up to current code for snow load – main lam-beams good
- New HD laser projectors have exceptionally long life and brilliance
- ADA ramp to platform means end of pews would have to be cut-off or replaced with chairs
- DMX dimming controls and fixtures are now silent
- Portable baptisteries easily disassembled, stored, re-assembled for use 24 hours in advance of use

Worship Center Renewal Team



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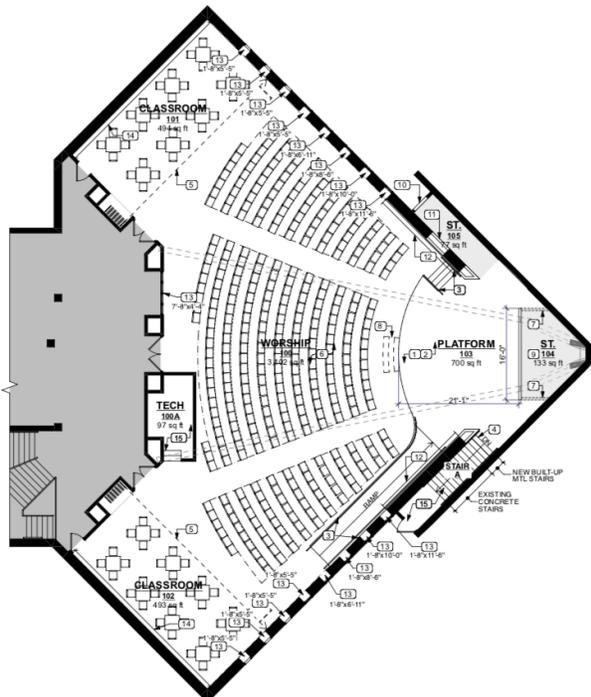


Mark Owens

The team, working with Station 19 Architects, put together the proposal for renewing the worship space.



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*Overview of the proposed
Worship Center space.*

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The plan includes 4 main parts: ceiling, platform, lights, and room.

Ceiling:

- The roof will be brought up to current snow-load code, which means the ceiling will be replaced as structural support is added.
- Additional supports and wiring will be added for lighting fixtures, laser projector, and larger confidence monitor.

Platform:

- The platform will be leveled to the same height; sound dampened, and rounded out.
- Handicap accessible ramp will be added on south side.
- Storage will be available behind central projection wall.
- There will be additional storage available stage right for worship ministry equipment.

Lights:

- The platform and auditorium lights will be brighter and better controlled.
- There will be a single laser projector onto a central HD screen.
- The noisy Elation DMX dimmers will be replaced by quiet DMX controlled fixtures.
- The faux stained glass will be replaced with window treatments.

Room:

- Moveable walls will be installed in each of the wings to help control sound when used as classrooms providing flexibility for overflow.
- Carpet rectangles will be installed for ease of replacement and maintenance.
- Chairs will replace pews for increased flexibility of the space for multiple uses.

We believe this project is wise because...

1. We believe that renewing the worship center will help us love God, love others, and make disciples of Jesus in 2022 and in the decades to come by providing a space that leans into the lighting, video, and audio needs, sensibilities and expectations of people today.
2. We believe that renewing the worship space will help us love God, love others, and make disciples of Jesus in 2022 and in the decades to come by giving us increased flexibility in the usage of the Worship Center for reaching out and discipling people.
3. We believe that renewing the worship space will help us love God, love others, and make disciples of Jesus in 2022 and in the decades to come by multiplying the time and efforts of the people who utilize and serve in that space thus giving us a more sustainable ministry model as we reach out to modern people.
4. We believe that renewing the worship space will help us to love God, love others, and make disciples of Jesus in 2022 and in the decades to come by allowing more people (those with limited mobility) to participate.
5. We believe that renewing the worship space will help us love God, love others, and make Disciples of Jesus in 2022 and in the decades to come by allowing for classes to have a well-lit and more sound-insulated space in which to meet.

The cost estimate from Station 19 is \$872,000.

Here's how we are proposing to finance the project:

- **Pay \$425,000** in cash from our general and designated funds (Worship Center renewal Fund, Employee Retention Credit; targeted unused designated funds).
- **Borrow \$150,000 more from our own funds** which we will replace through a 12-month campaign.
- Borrow an amount from Christian Investors or another institution where the sum of 12 monthly payments will not exceed 4% of the annual church budget. (\$854,292)

Here's why we think it is a good idea financially:

- Bethel is in a strong financial position currently thanks to God's blessing and the generosity of the Bethel church family. We have over \$850,000 in our general and designated funds.
- Interest rates are currently very low.
- The amount we are proposing to borrow and the monthly payments will be a relatively small percentage of the overall church budget. We are committed to no more than 4%.
- We want to raise at least \$150,000 over 12-months and a significant portion is already committed.



What's Next?

1. Pray with us about this.
2. Ask questions by emailing staff@bethlefc.org or by completing a question card and dropping it in the mailbox.
3. Members of the team, staff and elders will be available to come to Connections Classes in the coming weeks.
4. On March 6, we will hold a potluck with a Q&A session after 2nd service.
5. On March 13, we plan to have a special congregational meeting to vote on the project and funding at 6:30 PM in the Worship Center. The elders have set a 75% threshold to approve.
6. If approved the project will begin to move forward and plans will be forthcoming.

What will the motion to be voted on say?

Approval to move forward with the Worship Center Renewal Project as proposed by the Elder Board and the Worship Center Renewal Project team with the following funding.

- **\$425,000 in cash from the designated (\$223,346.30)** (*WCR fund (\$155,203.20), Employee Retention Credit (\$47,594.57), unused designated funds (\$20,548.53)*) **and general funds (\$201,653.70)**.
- **Borrow \$150,000** more from our own funds, which we will replace through a 12-month campaign.
- **Borrow an amount from Christian Investors** or another institution where the sum of 12 monthly payments will not exceed 4% of the annual church budget. (\$854,292)
- A project target-cost of **\$875,000**.