

# Questions from Classes & Cards

## WORSHIP CENTER RENEWAL



### MISSION QUESTIONS

#### **Is this the best use of funds? Why spend so much on our facility when we could send it to missions?**

While it is difficult to determine if something is the “best” use of funds, we believe that the Worship Center Renewal project is wise and strategic for our mission for the following reasons...

1. **Bethel is a mission effort to our area.** On a weekly basis Bethel interacts with unbelievers, encourages believers, preached the Gospel message, studies the Bible, reaches out with God’s love, welcomes new people, and seeks to give witness to Jesus and what He has done in our lives in our community. We believe that the investment in the Worship Center will enhance Bethel’s ministry in our area and in our growing online presence.
2. **As Bethel does well that blessing is passed on to our missionaries.** Bethel currently gives about 17% of funds received to the general fund to Global Outreach and Local Outreach. On top of that, special offerings and gifts also are allocated for these areas as well. (Ingathering, Memorial gifts, estate gifts, Abundant, etc.)

Additionally, we fund a high-quality Christian preschool program, which has grown to serve more and more people in our community. We believe that the Worship Center Renewal project will help Bethel to continue to accomplish our mission for years to come and therefore continue to generously support mission efforts around the globe.

3. **Mission efforts around the world all spend money on similar things:** people, materials, buildings, training, studies. Investing money here in our area on the Worship Center is not more or less spiritual than sending it to missionaries overseas.

#### **Are we doing this so that people will come to Bethel?**

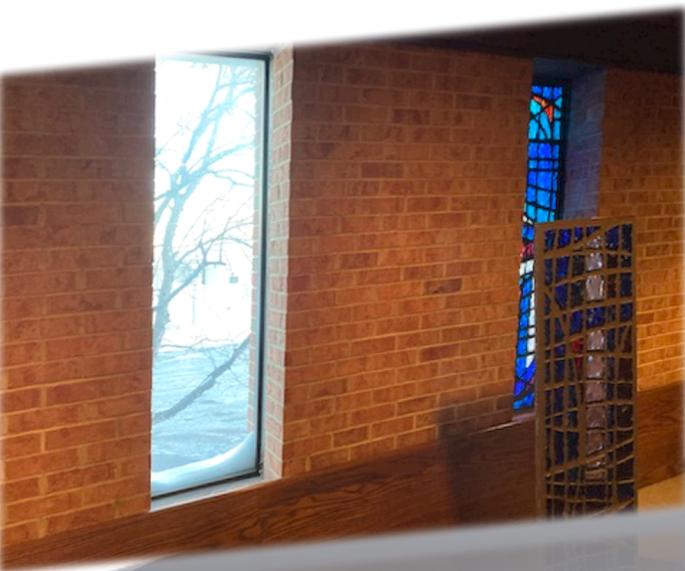
While we believe that renewing the Worship Center will increase the effectiveness of the Worship Center as a tool for ministry, we know that what is primary is not the building, but the centrality of Jesus, His Word and His people.

## WINDOW QUESTIONS

**Explain the windows, won't taking out the stained glass make it really bright in people's eyes? Or if the window shades are closed won't it be really dark?**

Removing the stained glass panels will bring natural light into the Worship Center, but we don't believe that it will be any brighter than other areas of the facility where natural light comes in.

For special services throughout the year, the Creative Arts Team has darkened the room in order to control lighting needs by covering the windows with black plastic tarps cut to size and adhering them to the windows. This process has required high ladders and volunteer time. When removing the plastic, glass slivers will often come off, so the volunteers need to be careful. This method of darkening the Worship Center has not been easy, and often results in having to reattach prior to the services, as the plastic will fall down. Room darkening blinds will give us the ability to darken the room and control the light more consistently and more easily on a regular basis.



*There is double-paned glass behind the panels. The shortest windows have one panel; the rest of windows have two to three panels stacked on top of each other.*

**Won't it be expensive to replace the stained glass? Can we leave the stained glass for now and take it out later to save costs now?**

The stained glass is actually a panel placed in front of the existing double-paned windows. These panels are currently sinking and creating a gap at the top of the window.

There is no cost to removing these panels unless the seal of the double-paned window is broken and needs repair.

Because the windows will have mechanical and electrical components installed at the top to control the blinds and channels installed along the inside of the windows to guide the blinds, removal of the stained glass at a later time will be difficult and would require some additional costs.

**Can we put up the stained glass in another place?**

The stained glass actually is an insert covering clear glass. These could not be put up in another place.

**If we used manual shades wouldn't they be cheaper?**

They may be, but they would not be controllable for the light-control which will allow the greatest potential functionality.

**What do we need to do that necessitates redoing the ceiling?**

In order to hang new projectors and lighting the ceiling must be reinforced. We cannot upgrade these areas without that structural support.



*Panels sinking at the top.*

## SEATING QUESTIONS

### Will the chairs increase greatly the custodial load for cleaning?

Potentially, but we are exploring options to hopefully mitigate any change.

### Won't the chairs be harder for larger people who don't necessarily fit well into a single chair?

The chairs will hook together. There will be a negligible gap between chairs. The chairs, which have been proposed, are 20 inches wide with no arm rests so in many ways they will feel like pews. Larger chairs are made but we have not yet explored multiple sizes of chairs, the costs, or the impact on seating-capacity for those.

### What would we be hosting that requires chairs instead of pews?

While we don't know for sure what the future holds, this plan will give us great flexibility for things like the No Regrets Conference or The Art of Marriage Conference where people could sit around tables.

### Will I still be able to snuggle with my spouse?

We sure hope so! The chairs should allow for this.

### When the Great Hall was put on it was made to be "dual-use" why do we need the Worship Center to be dual-use if we already have that space?

The audio and video capabilities of the Worship Center are on a different level from those in the Great Hall. Having dual-use capability in the Worship Center will allow us to use our best sound and video equipment for a "conference" or other setting in addition to potentially having two different audio-visual events simultaneously.

### Could we keep some pews in the back and put chairs in the rest of the space?

The goal with the chairs is increased flexibility and functionality. This option would allow for some, but still limit the space in some ways.

## SAFETY QUESTIONS

### Is there asbestos in the ceiling?

As far as we know, there is not a concern about asbestos.

### Would it be good to keep the north emergency entrance in case there was a reason (a violent intrusion, fire in the lobby, etc.) we couldn't go out the main doors?

The main worship storage is supposed to go in the space that currently has the north emergency exit. Keeping this exit would greatly decrease available storage. There will be a small amount of storage behind the projection wall. In conversations with a security-minded individual, they did not think that this exit would be necessary in the event of a violent intrusion. On Sunday mornings we have a Safety Team around the building who are on the lookout for potential safety issues.



## COST QUESTIONS

### **What is the “itemized” cost? Is there any way we can decrease the cost of the project?**

The estimate of the total project is \$872,000 with the following general breakdown: general construction \$493,000; architect/structural engineer & misc. \$60,000; AV equipment, installation, and set-up \$269,000; furnishings \$50,000. The main thing we could do to reduce cost is to do some of the demolition (removal of pews and removal of carpet) ourselves.

### **How old is the \$872,000 estimate? Can we get multiple estimates?**

The estimate is from November with a built-in 10% overage. We would like to get multiple bids if the project moves forward to see if we can get the best possible price and still accomplish the goals of the project.

### **What does borrowing from ourselves mean?**

Borrowing from ourselves is a way we can move forward with the project while limiting the amount of money we borrow. Currently, Bethel has over \$850,000 in our general and designated funds. We are proposing to spend \$425,000 from our general and designated funds. Additionally, because of the low interest rates on money in the bank we think it wise to "borrow from ourselves" an additional \$150,000, which we want to repay quickly through a 12-month campaign. Currently we have \$96,450 pledged towards that from the elders, worship center renewal team, and staff.

### **Will we be using up all our resources on this project? What if we need to expand our space?**

We will be expending significant resources for this project. However, we will be leaving a wise-amount of money in our general fund (3 months expenses) in addition to our designated funds. We are confident that the Lord will continue to provide financially for our needs as a church.

The building is getting used a great deal today. However, we do not, at this time, have plans for building more space. Before we would look at building more space we would likely consider other options first (church planting, adding a service, Connections meeting during multiple hours).

### **Can we have a bonus/penalty for the building contracting getting the job done on time?**

We will have to work with and negotiate with the general contractor on this aspect. But it is possible.

### **Do we have a plan to deal with large increases in inflation or interest rates?**

One of the reasons we think it good to start the project as soon as possible is to “lock” the cost in place. Once the project is completed the costs should not rise. Currently, interest rates are still low. Christian Investors, a potential lender, is currently writing loans for 4.25%.

## OTHER QUESTIONS

### **Are there other things that should be addressed about the building and should be added to the project?**

There are other “building-type” needs which are on the horizon: dealing with the parking lot, replacing the shingles on the side of the Worship Center, and potentially an electronic sign. We have wanted to focus on this project and then move on to others.

### **Will there be mobile steps for weddings or other things?**

Yes, there are mobile steps for the center of the stage.

### **Will there be a door in the semi-permanent wall in the classroom areas?**

Yes, there will be at least one door in the semi-permanent wall in the classroom areas. The classroom areas will be totally enclosed so sound bleed-over will be greatly reduced.

### **What is the wait time for materials? How long will the project take?**

We don't know for sure what the wait time for materials will be. The initial contractor, who estimated the cost, said it would take 4 months to complete. Our potential chair vendor thinks they can deliver chairs in 6-8 weeks.

### **How old is the outer roof?**

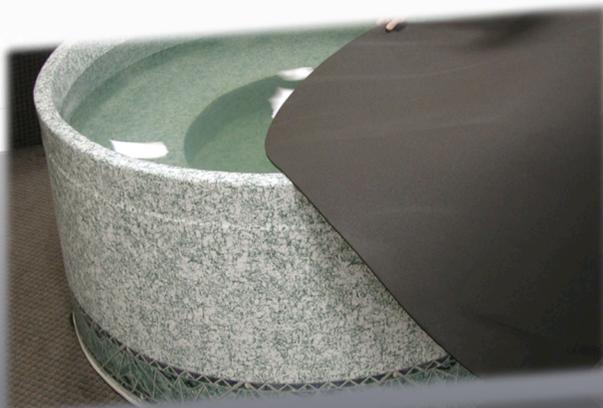
The flat part of the roof (rubberized, rated for 40 years) is 20 years old. We aren't sure about the shingles.

### What does the portable baptistery look like?

The portable baptistery can be easily set up and warms up the water in approximately 24 hours. Various accessories, such as towel holders, additional steps and railings, baptistery cover, carpet protector, etc. are available to meet our needs. The portable system disassembles and is fairly compact for storage and transportation if needed.



*Numerous accessories available to meet our needs.*



### Could there be a cross on each side and then a cross projected onto the projection screen all the rest of the time including during the week?

A projected cross throughout the week would quickly use up the projectors at a considerable expense. The cross will still be displayed prominently on the side of the sanctuary, highlighted with lights behind to accent it. The central screen will bring the words of Scripture to the middle of our worship space.

### Will the space feel sterile and like a “conference center”?

We think that with the lighting and the backdrops, which will be able to be used, the space will feel inviting and appropriate for our time of worship.

### What if the project is not approved?

We will have to evaluate how to address the concerns and come up with a new proposal based on congregational feedback.

*The baptistery easily disassembles for compact storage and transportation*

