

# Sanctuary Renovation

The Trustees have expressed interest in seeing a proposal for the renovation of the sanctuary. A proposal process would help us explore the extent of potential renovation, how it might be beneficial, how much it would cost, and how long it would take.

## History

The original Pasadena Covenant Church Sanctuary was built in 1922. The chapel was a two story structure with Sunday school class rooms at the mezzanine level overlooking the chapel space. By 1945 the congregation had outgrown the building and decided to build a structure that would seat 500 people. The architect, Anton Johnson, decided to incorporate the original facility into the new sanctuary.

He designed a Mission Revival style building that included thick walls, rounded window frames, a bell tower, a balcony, stained glass windows, and a designated sanctuary space with a sloped floor. Aside from the stained glass windows, the interior was a functional, minimalist, white space in keeping with Swedish design sensibilities. A window between the new sanctuary and the old chapel created a visual connection between past and present. A second floor was added to the chapel space. A few years later bathrooms were added and a basement was dug.



In the years that followed, the congregation discovered it had a design problem. 150 square feet of glass windows on the east side of the room let in too much light, heat, and noise creating a distraction on Sunday mornings. So in 1968 the building was remodeled. Most of the windows were covered over, the ceilings were lowered to accommodate air conditioning duct work, carpet replaced brown linoleum, the stage was expanded and terraced, and cramped fixed theatre style chairs were replaced with padded pews on the lower level. (Seating capacity dropped from 500 to 363 as a result)

In the mid 1990's though the pews were reupholstered, some walls repainted, audio visual projection added, and the carpet replaced, the sanctuary has remained basically the same for the past 50 years since 1968.

## Design Goals

The current Sanctuary building comprises 10,000 square feet and is divided into 30 rooms. The sanctuary, balcony, and narthex comprise about 3000 square feet. We have three primary goals:

- **Increase Functionality**—Could we add video projection, a hospitality bar, and a less noisy air conditioning unit to the Gathering Place to make it a more usable? Could Fellowship Hall be used as a tutoring center and training space for young cooks? Could the second floor above the Gathering Place be converted to rental office space for our ministry partners? What improvements are needed to the sound and lighting system to prepare us for the communication technology of the future?
- **Unified Aesthetics**—The narthex feels cramped, dark, and dated. Could we expand the feel of the space? Do the pews meet our needs or should we consider replacing them with chairs? What are the tradeoffs? Is there a way to bring natural light into the sanctuary and increase the visual appeal? Can we find a unified look and feel for the building?
- **Welcoming Our Guests**—How do we make the space more hospitable to all?

## Design Process

The following steps have been taken.

- Steve Dahl and Associates, a local architectural firm, has been hired to develop a set of plans.

- A design team has been formed to help develop a proposal. The members are Richard Parsekian, Kathleen Fresquez, Suren Anketell, and Steve Stuckey.
- A design studio has been created in the Tower Room. (off the balcony)
- We will be seeking input and feedback from the congregation through surveys, sanctuary tours, and interaction with the plans as they develop.

Check back for updates.