

Sanctuary Enhancement: Looking to the Future

This is the third in a five-part series of essays exploring why I think the Sanctuary Enhancement Project is vital to our future ministry here at Lake Grove Presbyterian.

Some 50 years ago a group of our men and women worked very hard to create the sanctuary. When it was completed, it reflected the best architectural design of its day. The shape of the space, the colors used, the styles employed were all consistent with what worshipers in the late 1950s and early 1960s found inviting and inspiring in a Presbyterian sanctuary. The fact that it has served this congregation so well for nearly half a century is a testimony to the vision and skill of its original designers.

But like everything else, times and tastes change. And after 50 years even a facility as durable and attractive as ours needs some work. Many of you have expressed a desire for a warmer space, with better lighting and clearer sound. And the variety and scope of our different programs (and our larger congregation) call for some changes.

Further, because we seek to be a community that attracts and welcomes new members, we want to do the best we can to create a worshiping space that others find warm and welcoming. People are drawn to this church by the care of our people and the quality of our worship. However, some of our recent visitors report they are put off by things like the dark feel of the sanctuary and the difficulties some have had seeing and hearing what's going on.

Because of these concerns, I believe the time has come to work on improving the appearance and function of our sanctuary space. The goal is not radical redesign but careful changes that will make this a warm and inviting space where all can participate in vital worship of our Lord.

We stand at a place of opportunity. We can stay where we are, certainly. But in so doing we will probably discourage a number of newer folks from taking part. I think we can do better. I think we can design and create a sanctuary that retains much of the sense of this room loved by so many, while adding the light and improving the sound and increasing the flexibility to make it more usable and more attractive to future generations of worshipers.

That's the goal. I hope you'll keep this in your thoughts and prayers as our conversation continues.

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What happens in our sanctuary shapes and defines us as a congregation. After 50 years, it's time to make some changes that will aid our worship now and be an inviting place for those seeking a church home in the future.

Lord, as we consider enhancing our sanctuary, please guide us with Your wisdom such that our efforts are pleasing to You and helpful to Your people. We want to praise Your name. We want to do Your work. Amen.

Bob Sanden