

# The Sanctuary Renewal Project

## Frequently Asked Questions

### BACKGROUND

We believe that the deepest mission of the church is advanced by appropriately maintaining our physical presence on this corner of Berkeley, where we are both a sanctuary and a springboard for God's gracious work. For a good understanding of the scope and costs of the project along with additional answers to the question "Why?," please pick up a copy of the Sanctuary Renewal Project booklet as a companion piece to these FAQs.

#### **Why are we tackling this project now?**

It is past time to address long-deferred maintenance of our Sanctuary. Our carpet is no longer repairable and in certain areas presents a trip hazard. The pews are damaged by forty-four years of wear and tear, some to the point of breakage. These elements need repair and refurbishment. And while this work is being undertaken, we will have the most economical and prudent window of time to refresh paint and update technology. In addition, we want to accomplish the work during the Interim Period before we call a new Senior Pastor.

#### **The congregation is being asked to increase its giving to the General Fund. Which is the priority, the General Fund or the Sanctuary Renewal Project?**

We view General Fund giving as ongoing stewardship of your resources. The General Fund supports all the ministries of the church and everyone who calls First Pres their church home is invited to give generously and regularly to that end. This is our first priority. The Sanctuary Renewal Project is an opportunity to give a one-time gift that is an above-and-beyond gift. Your gift should not impact your General Fund giving.

#### **Should the Sanctuary Renewal Project be the priority for a special giving request?**

Perhaps in another, non-interim, time and without the deferred maintenance to be attended to now, this would not be such a high priority. But we believe that renewing the Sanctuary will be a gift we offer to God and that accomplishing it together will enliven our worship, our ministries, and our mission. We've outlined more about this in the Sanctuary Renewal Project booklet and invite you to check out page seven to learn more.

#### **What are the goals of the Sanctuary Renewal Project Team?**

- Address our issues of worn out finishes and deferred maintenance.
- Refresh finishes in a way that best expresses our Sanctuary's inherent vitality, openness, and grace.
- Prepare our Sanctuary to continue to welcome and inspire all who seek God for decades to come in a manner that speaks to new generations.
- Accomplish all this in a prudent, cost-effective manner.

## Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

### **Why is the budget \$600,000? That seems like a lot.**

The total budget for the project reflects careful stewardship of choices for a minimized project scope and careful, value-driven selection of finishes and vendors. The budget is as economical as possible while also placing a priority on a renewal that will endure. Every effort has been made to value engineer the budget while building in a large contingency that may not be completely needed. That being said, the Sanctuary is simply a large space to refresh. The physical scale of the project is a major driver of the cost.

### **When does the project start and how long will it take?**

Our final worship service in the Sanctuary will be Memorial Day Weekend. We begin the project in the first part of June and expect to be back in a renewed Sanctuary by late August. Our timeline is tight but does include some contingencies for potential delays.

### **Does this project include accommodations for people with disabilities?**

Though the scope of this project does not include construction changes, we are able to improve access in several ways. We will be shortening pews in select locations to better accommodate wheelchairs, and we are developing a plan to incorporate wheelchair access to the moveable choir platform. For the hearing-impaired, we are improving and updating our hearing-assistance technology. We will continue to implement improvements developed with community partners.

### **How will the project unfold?**

We need to protect the organ during all phases of work. The pews and choir chairs will be removed by one of the country's few pew refinishing firms, repaired, refinished, and reupholstered. Painting the canopy and walls can then proceed, followed by stripping, staining, and polishing the concrete floors, refinishing the wood floors, and installing the new carpet areas. The refreshed pews will return, screens will be installed, and the organ will be reassembled and tuned to the Sanctuary's new acoustics. Though this will involve careful coordination by our project management team, the commercial vendors we have selected are extremely professional and have partnered on similar projects.

### **Where will we worship during the renewal project?**

First Pres staff is working already to plan for worship in John Knox A&B, otherwise known as Westminster Gym. We anticipate worshipping in a more informal summer mode. We look forward to folding chairs, great music, and some treats to sweeten the mornings. Details to follow!

