



Campus Redevelopment Listening Sessions: Results & Next Steps

ARCH Committee Reports Listening Session Results

Our campus is closed during the coronavirus outbreak, but the work and mission of our church continues every day. We are focused on daily response to the needs and concerns of St. Bart's and our community.

Last November we communicated an initial proposal to rethink our Sanctuary space to improve the worship experience for all generations and the growing number of seekers, visitors, and newcomers that come St. Bart's looking for welcome and connection. During December and January, the ARCH team and Vestry facilitated over 10 Listening Sessions that included all parish, ministry and affinity groups to hear your thoughts, feedback, suggestions, and concerns.

We received a wide variety of opinions, ideas, and suggestions voiced by parishioners. A church is strongest when its membership is involved, and your comments on flexibility, accessibility, and sacred worship space helped make the plans better. The ARCH committee, Vestry, and Clergy appreciate the energy and passion of each participant. Thank you for participating with comments and questions, comments and feedback on the paper forms, and email feedback—75 people attended the listening sessions and we received 77 comments and emails. Although there was no clear consensus for or against any of the proposals, every comment and suggestion was considered as we made the plan decisions.

We announced that rescheduled City of Poway meetings to secure required CUP (Conditional Use Permit) approvals determined that we delay planned Phase 2 projects in summer 2020 that require this approval. Phase 2 includes demolition of the Parish Hall and construction of the new upper-level parking lot, new Columbarium walkway and expanded Preschool playground. The ARCH Committee proposed a new plan for Summer 2020 projects that enables our work to continue and does not require CUP approvals.

Why Change Our Sanctuary? Why Now?

Our sanctuary is the place we gather in community to sing, hear the word of God, pray, share the sacraments and where we come to be healed and restored. newcomers, seekers, and visitors who are new to church and new to the Episcopal Church also enter here to

experience "All are welcome, no exceptions". The goal of this planning is to arrange the sanctuary space to empower us to live more faithfully into our mission—to reveal His life, love, and light to the world—and lead us more deeply into our vision—to be agents of transformation in the world.

The proposed changes will enable us to:

1. Welcome all, with no exceptions, in real and tangible ways. We believe the changes will provide an improved experience for people of ALL GENERATIONS, and especially for seekers and the unchurched.
2. Provide a balanced space that enhances the energy of our worship and makes it easier to move around and to see, hear, and listen to each other.
3. Experience greater intimacy among all worshipers, allowing us to more fully engage Christ in the "other"—in every person present—and practice transforming ourselves so we can serve, by our example, as greater agents of God's transformation in our communities.
4. Promote greater intimacy with the sacred and the sacraments.
5. Offer a more expansive range of liturgy and musical offerings, including traditional and contemporary worship.
6. More effectively implement measures to ensure safety and comfort for all.

All plans on the following pages were approved by the ARCH committee, Vestry, and Clergy considering our Vision, Strategic Plan, your feedback and with prayer and discernment.

Please contact Mark Davis, Redevelopment@stbartschurch.org, if you have questions or comments about this plan.

Action Items Approved for Summer 2020 and Why Now

1. **Remove and replace the patio courtyard** - pull this work forward from Phase 3A which was scheduled in 2023-2024. The new patio surface will replace all existing hard surfaces between the parking lot stairs, Sanctuary, Education Building and Parish Hall, including removal of the large Parish Hall planters and patio trees.

Why? The patio surface is unsafe and causes falls with serious injuries. The London Plane patio trees are a major cause of concrete heaving and the resulting uneven surfaces--they need to be removed. This work does not require CUP approvals.

- Many people commented that it would be good if some elements of Phase 3 could be implemented before the Parish Hall is demolished. Replacing the patio is an element of Phase 3A work that can be done this summer. Also, before the replacement of the patio paving surface, components of the future Phase 3 drainage systems, underground utility piping, and conduit, will be put in place, taking advantage of today's construction costs.
 - You might have noticed the new red paint marks and freshly ground concrete areas on the patio. These areas marked uneven concrete that needed to be ground flat to remove hazardous conditions and potential tripping points. Replacing the patio this summer will provide a permanent fix and save the re-occurring costs of concrete grinding to prevent accidents from the uneven concrete.
 - The new patio will provide an improved, expanded and more attractive area for parish events and activities and will be available before the Community Center is built. Overall Campus Conceptual Landscape Planning is underway and includes review and recommendations for the replacement of the diseased pine trees and evaluation/recommendations on the Courtyard trees.
 - A campus landscape plan is being developed and will include plans for the new courtyard. The new patio will provide an improved, expanded and more attractive area for parish events and activities and will be available before the Community Center is built.
2. **Construct a new walkway from the lower parking lot** along the road to the Chapel patio for Chapel and campus access. This work was planned for Phase 2 and is now rescheduled for this summer.

Why? Many comments were voiced that people feel unsafe walking on the road from the parking lot to

the Chapel and campus buildings, especially at night. A lighted walkway will provide safer access, and the work can be easily moved to this summer. This work does not require CUP approval and can be completed with the main courtyard work.

3. **Remove and replace Non-ADA Compliant walkway** along the east side (upper parking lot side) of the Administration Building.

Why? The City of Poway determined that the existing walkway that provides access to the Chapel, Youth/MPR and renovated restrooms in non-ADA compliant and allowed the correction to be deferred to Phase 2. This work does not require CUP approval and can be completed with the main courtyard work. This work does not require CUP approval.

4. **Remove and Replace 34 diseased and unsafe pine trees.**

Why? A certified arborist determined that 34 pine trees are diseased, a significant safety issue, and recommended their removal. Over this winter, two of the diseased trees fell into the upper parking lot circle. Removing the diseased trees and replacement with healthy sustainable trees will permanently mitigate this life safety and property damage issue.

5. **Optimize the Sanctuary** for enhanced sacred worship, accessibility, and safety.
 - a. Extend the altar platform so the altar can be moved closer to parish seating. This work includes a permanent ramp to provide safe access to the altar in addition to steps.

Why? Many people commented that they would like to retain a raised altar, making it easier to see the clergy during worship.

- Moving the altar forward makes it more central to the sacrament and a more intimate shared space for gathered community worship.
 - Incorporating the ramp will make the altar compliant with ADA access.
- b. Relocate the choir, piano, and organ behind the altar.

Why? Many comments favored positioning the choir in front of the church so they could be heard better and feel more engaged with the music.

- Most music ministry members support this proposal and feel it will make the music more integral to the services.
- c. The hanging **Christus Rex will be relocated** to the wall above the new organ location behind the altar.

Why? This location maintains the cross as a significant visual element of the sanctuary and altar and is not a distracting element in the new altar and choir locations.

d. Replace the carpeting

Why? Many people supported removing the carpet in favor of a hard surface, and many people also expressed concern with how hard surface floors might detrimentally impact acoustics and change the overall “feel” of the room.

- Replacing the carpet with new carpet “squares” for ease of maintenance will update worn areas and minimize hard surfaces, thus retaining the current acoustics levels.
- e. **Create a mixture of new wood upholstered chairs** like the Chapel chairs (20% will be chairs with arms) and **retain several of the pews.** Remove & dispose of unused pews.

Why? More people preferred replacing pews with chairs than those who did not want the pews replaced. This arrangement is a compromise that somewhat accommodates both desires.

- Chairs allow improved seating with shorter aisle configurations to accommodate people who have mobility challenges
- Shorter rows of linked chairs will be sturdy, and people can feel secure and safe to use them for support when standing up or sitting down. Provisions for kneeling will be included in the design. We will have sample chairs for people to look at before a final model is selected.
- Chairs add flexibility to the sanctuary space enabling the area to be reconfigured for different types of church & worship activities: seasonal specific services, Christmas pageant, Vacation Bible School, choir recitals and concerts, weddings, etc.
- f. **Reconfigure the back of the Sanctuary.** The doors and window walls that separate the narthex from the main hall will be removed creating a single, large room. Ushers will greet parishioners from outside the building.

Why? The current doors from the main hall to the narthex are not compliant with safety codes. Removing the doors and side walls will improve mobility by people with mobility challenges and exiting by everyone in the event of an emergency.

g. **Install a double entry door at the center of the rear sanctuary wall** (at the current organ location.) With an appropriate chair configuration, this creates

a center aisle configuration.

Why? Creating a center aisle allows optimal seating configurations for different services and the aisle will provide a more traditional ceremonial entrance for processions.

- The center aisle will accommodate the baptismal font relocation from the side (north) wall, to the center aisle, creating a central focal point of our two primary sacraments: font (Baptism) and altar (Eucharist).
- These additional doors further improve our ability to safely exit the main hall.
- h. **Create three all-gender, single-person, ADA accessible restrooms** by reconfiguring the current restrooms and coffee area space. Restroom doors will be relocated away from the new double door sanctuary entrance. At least one of the restrooms will be accessible directly from the patio.

Why?

- Current restrooms do not meet ADA standards for accessibility.
- Placing the restroom doors on the sides allows for more usable interior design of the restroom space.
- The new restrooms will accommodate all genders.
- Having a restroom opening onto the patio allows use without entering the sanctuary.

What is NOT Changing

Proposed changes to the sanctuary that are not included in this phase:

- No TV screens installed
- No visible changes to windows, paint colors, stained glass
- No changes to lighting or HVAC systems
- No changes to sacristy and preparation rooms
- No building exterior changes (aside for the new restroom entrance)
- No changes to the existing organ speakers

Funding

Many people asked how these projects would be funded. (All costs listed are estimates and are approximate pending final architectural plans).

1. **Use of Honor Faith. Build Future. (HFBF) campaign funds** (the major campus redevelopment project).

These funds will not be used for changes to the sanctuary, HFBF funds will only be used for projects included in the original and approved campus redevelopment strategy.

Some components of the 2020 projects are included in the Phase 2 and Phase 3A plans; funding from HFBF funds will be used for these components - \$138,000

- a. Removal the current patio, planters along the parish hall, and installation of new courtyard paving material and landscaping
 - b. Removal and replacement of diseased trees and Administration Building walkway (planned phase 2-3A projects)
 - c. Architectural-Engineering fees for design, construction documents for permits, bidding, and construction for each element
2. **Mixed Funding:** By converting the Sanctuary restrooms, we reduce the number of restrooms that are required to be built in the new Community Center to meet ADA standards. Some of the HFBF funds budgeted for the Community Center will be used to convert the Sanctuary restrooms. Updating the sanctuary restrooms now lowers the expense to build new restrooms in the new building and makes these new restrooms available this year. The total estimated cost to update the sanctuary restrooms of \$115,000 will come from these funds:
 - a. Funding from HFBF: \$34,000 (savings to Community Center required ADA restrooms)
 - b. Funding from the Nicholson Trust account: \$12,000
 - c. Funding from the Parish Major Repairs & Replacement account: \$10,000
 - d. Funding from the Vestry Designated Reserves account: \$59,000
 3. **Vestry Designated Reserves** in Fund 6 will be used to pay for the sanctuary worship space modification at an estimated cost of \$150,000.

Commemoration of Donations

Many people have donated items that are used in the sanctuary, Parish Hall, and patio. Some of these items will be removed as part of the renovation this summer and next year. The church will honor and commemorate the generosity of these donations.

- a. All donation plaques in the sanctuary will be removed and retained.
- b. Parishioners can either collect the plaques or leave them with the church. Plaques that remain will be incorporated in a future commemorative system that will recognize all past and future donors.

Timeframe: All schedules are dependent on May re-opening of City of Poway offices to accept and approve construction permit applications.

March-May 2020: Our Architectural and Engineering consultants are already working on preliminary designs for these projects that will be reviewed with the Parish in April (after Easter). Final design completion for building permits and bidding scheduled in May.

June 22, 2020 – August 17, 2020: Sanctuary and Patio closed for work. The Education Building access will be through a marked pathway in front of the Parish Hall. During this period worship services will be held in the Parish Hall and Chapel. The Parish Hall will be altered to accommodate services during the construction period.

Additionally, certain **safety improvements proposed in the federally funded security grant will be made to the church.** These include a new electronic door lock system, outdoor lighting, video and communication systems.

The Sanctuary re-open is planned for St. Bart's weekend, August 20-30. The renovated Sanctuary will feature a new altar, ambo, and font bowl stand.

Thank You

The ARCH committee, Vestry, and Clergy thank everyone for sharing and discussing comments and ideas. Change can be disruptive and uncomfortable. St. Bart's has come a long way from its humble beginning in a rented storefront 60 years ago. The church has continually moved forward with new ideas, new facilities, and new parishioners keeping St. Bart's a leader in the San Diego Diocese. These changes continue the tradition of St. Bart's as a congregation that looks to the future while honoring our past.

The Mission of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church: We are called to be disciples of Christ, revealing His Life, Love and Light to the World.