Sanctuary Restoration: An Overview

The need: Summerville Presbyterian Church is centered around an historic Sanctuary that has served generations before us. The beautiful Sanctuary is both our inheritance and our legacy. To honor the past and plan for the future it is now our time and our responsibility to see that the Sanctuary is restored and continues to serve beyond our time as a gathering place for those who will continue God’s work in our community. If it is to remain our beautiful place to worship, attention needs to be given to its current condition.

The following information provides an overview for a scope of proposed work that would address concerns about the Sanctuary’s deteriorating condition and provide some updates that meet current safety codes and technology needs. The focus has been restoration, not remodeling. Old photos of the Sanctuary have been helpful in guiding the work that will give it more of its historical look.

The scope of the proposed work: A complete restoration of the Sanctuary, from ceiling to floor, is included in the proposed plan. Depending on the scope of the restoration, we would not be able to use the Sanctuary for 3 months or more. Worship services would be held in the gym and/or online while the restoration is completed.

Ceiling and Lighting: Plaster repaired, sealed and painted. Wood ceiling lightly sanded, stained to match current and sealed. Chandeliers remain, but will be raised slightly and upfitted with warm tone LED lights to improve the quality of lighting in the Sanctuary.

Shutters and walls: Pocket doors removed from walls between the Zoo and the front of the Sanctuary. Expand the opening to improve the acoustics and the flow of traffic. Rework the existing doors from the naves, perhaps using the wood from the pocket doors. Shutters will be refurbished.

Chancel Platform: Enlarge and restore to its historical look. Expand it, lower it (but still have some elevation/risers at the rear for the choir), round it out and remove the wall between the pulpit and the choir. Build a moveable 12-foot-long modesty panel that would usually be placed in front of the choir. The panel is moveable so that concerts, plays, or productions can have ample flexible space.

Floors refinished, carpeted aisles, new pews. Seating would be slightly reconfigured and would include a center aisle through the zoo. Seating capacity increases by 20 seats with the proposed plan and addresses safety issues in case of emergency exit.

Exterior: Damaged wood replaced. Exterior walls scraped, prepared, and painted.

The following items are new since the first proposal was shared in February, 2020. They reflect ongoing review of the project and lessons learned about our technology needs during the pandemic.

Some new construction...Added as a safeguard to avoid further moisture issues in the ceiling: New soffit vents. Block off louvered gable vents in attic. Install ¾” plywood catwalk in attic.

Interior & Exterior Painting, Finishing and Plaster Repair: Added a flat fee of $5000.00 for additional, possible plaster damage and repair over a case by case option in the original contract. And the refinishing and reupholstering of 4 chancel chairs was left out of the original bid and has now been added.

Electrical and Lighting: Relocate Sanctuary sub panel and bring wiring up to code. Furnish and install 4 outdoor LED lights (flush with ground) and timer for exterior illumination of bell tower on Laurel and Central Ave’s. Install 5 exit signs.
**Sanctuary Sound System upgrade:** New Speakers and amplifiers that would significantly improve the sound quality in the Sanctuary.

**Sanctuary HD Camera System and Internet Streaming System:** Provide capability for high quality video recording and streaming of services held in the Sanctuary. We are **NOT** proposing to add display screens in the Sanctuary.

**Lanneau Hall Technology upgrade:** Install a TV monitor in Lanneau Hall, allowing our Welcome Center to display upcoming church events and church announcements and providing a connected space for a worship service overflow. A live feed from the Sanctuary enables viewing of the services in Lanneau. The monitor also provides display capability for use in a bible study class, Joy Kids class, or any other church related function that would benefit from the ability to use a monitor for a display, presentation or video.

**Contingency Fund:** A 10% contingency has been added to the cost of the project to take care of unexpected issues that might arise during the renovation.

**The process:** Session is currently sharing the Restoration plan through all available avenues. Please check your email and the church website for notices and information. Your questions and feedback are welcomed. Responses will be provided and shared in a cumulative listing. The congregation must approve any loan secured to fund this project. **A congregational meeting is set for Sunday, July 26, 2020. Both in-person and virtual options will be used so all can participate in this important decision.**

**The cost:** $720,000.00 for all elements in the plan as proposed

**Some good news:** We have been blessed with some recent bequeaths that will help fund this restoration and interest rates for mortgages are currently low.

**Session recommends securing a loan for $420,000.00**

**Sanctuary Restoration Committee Members:** Lauchlin Blue, Wilson Bond, Ellen Carney, Bill Helwig, Debbie Lindsay, Sandy Lindsay and Leo Lorenz

**Input requested:**
Please prayerfully consider the proposal. It is important that you share your thoughts and feedback with us. A display of items related to the restoration plan has been set up in the Sanctuary until the Congregational meeting on July 26. A schedule is included below. It has been 40 years since the last significant work on the Sanctuary was done. This is an opportunity for you to go inside our beloved Sanctuary, view the display and think about this important congregational decision. [View Presentation]

**Schedule for Sanctuary Display, beginning Wednesday July 8, 2020:**

- Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30am until 4:30pm
- Wednesdays 8:30 am until 7:30 pm
- Sundays 9:00 am until 6:00pm