

Visioning Workshop Discussion Results

Topic 1 - Invitation: Site, Parking and Entry

- Entry (Crossroads) – too crowded
 - Entry space has too much transitioning from one area to another
- Parking is too limited
- Drainage from field behind us as well as away from church
- Cross with landscaping to make SOTP more visible from the street
- Presence of SOTP at night – building is not noticeable at night
- Parking lot at night feels unsafe – have walkways to improve walking to from car at night
- Outdoor cover over walkway (driveway) to protect those waiting in poor weather
- Larger sign
 - Current sign meets village standards
 - Scrolling signage
- Outdoor worship area – devotional area for visitors to use
- Master plan for landscaping to work on over time

Topic 2 - Utilization of Space for Worship

- Sanctuary is over 80% of capacity on Sundays
- Can't see well from back of sanctuary
- Sound is deadened by carpet and chairs
 - Contemporary worship needs deadening
 - Carpet under members results in not being able to hear yourself sing – impacts congregational singing
- Festival services (Easter, Christmas, Confirmation) – we have turned people away because we are so crowded for festival worship
- Since we added the platform, it is not as comfortable for the kids to participate in children's message – they are intimidated
- It's difficult to see baptisms from many parts of the sanctuary
- Need to do something to improve our worship area
- Need to balance, prioritize – get biggest bang for the buck
- HVAC is very loud in the sanctuary and detracts from music
- Sound booth is too cramped
- First things first – example, one church expanded worship area first and grew despite being cramped for other kinds of space

Topic 3 - Youth Ministries

- Youth group meets in Greg's small office – there's not enough room in his office
- we don't have enough space for our current confirmation program,
- 4th and 5th grade Sunday school – need more technology
- Privacy – small groups – choir practicing while kids run up and down the aisle
- Small group breakouts – no place to go for privacy
- It's distracting for boys in small group meeting in kitchen
- We have to have two small groups in the same small rooms
- If you do not administer to the youth, your congregation will shrink
- Ping pong table in Greg's office
- When space is limited, it's difficult to get friends to come
- Leap of faith – if we had put a basement under the current building we could have solved our space program
- We should have a basement because it is cheaper space
 - Problem in Huntley is the water table is very high and results in issues with flooding
- Youth are future of our church

Topic 4 - Education & Parenting

- No where to take a screaming child – it can be embarrassing
- No good place to change a baby
- Little Lambs – more space means more new families
- Need to have a good way to direct people to appropriate Sunday school room
- Temporary partitions don't contain noise when room is used by multiple classes
- Smaller size toilets

Topic 5 - Outreach Mission, and Music Ministries

- We hardly have room for the Pastor in front of the sanctuary
- Bell Choirs – 6 bell choirs
- On Wednesday we use 4 or 5 rooms at the same time
- 14 cases of bells and no permanent place to store them
- Music is one of the biggest draws for SOTP
 - As a visitor we kept coming back because of the music
 - Career in church music – music and leadership is phenomenal

- Prayer shawl is OK now but Crafters need storage – need a room that we can lock to keep our things
 - Almost \$80K contributed to pay off mortgage
- Outreach – small area for books to be displayed
- Opportunity to bring in outside music groups if we had more space for them and audience
- Places for non-members to meet at SOTP
- Welcome center needs to be more visible
- Drama team is growing – small sanctuary room in front limits what can be done
- Fun for All Ages – no place to put crock pots and other supplies to support activities
- Outreach – parades and pie fest – no place to store materials
 - Items being stored in members' homes
 - Nice to have storage close to doors
- Parents sitting on floor waiting for their children

Topic 6 - Fellowship & Food Service

- Generally, there is a huge storage shortage for all that we'd like to store
- If HVAC and mechanical requirements were in a basement we could free up 1000 sq ft
- Where the kitchen is located is not best for food service
- We need an industrial kitchen
- Make crossroads more welcoming with couches
- Signage so folks can see where to go for Sunday school, etc.
 - Way finding