

# FAQ

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. WHAT PROMPTED THIS PROPOSAL?

The primary drivers are continued issues with sound quality and the need for additional, more flexible space.

### 2. WHY ARE WE MAKING CHANGES TO THE AUDITORIUM?

- Sound quality is poor.
- Seating is formal, inflexible, and inconvenient for those who may need to leave from the center of a pew. Older members and visitors in particular find the pews uncomfortable.
- Stewardship demands that we use our building more productively because Laurel has limited options for expanding its facilities. The auditorium is underutilized and could help meet demand from the Friend Speak program as well as Bible classes.

### 3. WILL THIS CHANGE OUR STYLE OF WORSHIP? No.

### 4. WHY ARE WE CHANGING PEWS TO CHAIRS?

Chairs will be more comfortable, provide more space between rows for people to get in and out, and allow us to rearrange the room for classes, small groups, community use, as well as services.

### 5. WHY ARE WE CHANGING THE ARRANGEMENT OF THE CHAIRS FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP?

By allowing us to see faces, we can increase a sense of community and connectedness. The new layout also allows us to move the speaker closer to those sitting in the back, making the space less formidable for visitors.

### 6. DOESN'T CHANGING PEWS DECREASE THE SEATING CAPACITY OF THE AUDITORIUM?

The new arrangement will seat between 430 and 450; current attendance averages 375 to 400. Much of our current pew seating is unused because people gravitate to the ends of the pews rather than sitting in the middle portion.

7. **WHAT IS THE CURRENT SEATING CAPACITY OF THE AUDITORIUM?** It is estimated at 535, but that assumes everyone sits shoulder to shoulder, with no spaces. Our experience is that this is never achieved, so the “practical seating” is considerably less.

### 8. WHAT IS OUR AVERAGE ATTENDANCE?

**MAXIMUM?** Late service attendance is typically 375 – 400, with a maximum of about 450 on Sundays after UT home football games.

### 9. WHY ARE YOU CHANGING THE SOUND SYSTEM?

Due to the existing design and configuration of the auditorium as well as an aging sound system, many members have difficulty hearing and understanding the speakers, especially toward the back of the auditorium.

### 10. WHY IS THE SOUND BOOTH DOWNSTAIRS, INSTEAD OF UPSTAIRS AS IT WAS IN THE PAST?

Sound cannot be adjusted effectively by AV team members while in a different room because they need to hear the service from the congregation’s perspective.

### 11. WHAT WILL THE AUDITORIUM BE USED FOR BESIDES SUNDAY WORSHIP?

Possibilities include FriendSpeak on Wednesday evenings, small groups or classes on Sunday mornings, and future uses we can’t yet anticipate.

### 12. WHY ARE WE ADDING SCREENS, INCLUDING TWO INSTEAD OF ONE AT THE FRONT?

The additional screen allows us to add more visual content that can help those sitting in the back. It also allows us to open up the baptistry and to better display information to the congregation.

### 13. HOW DOES THE SIZE OF THE NEW STAGE COMPARE TO THE CURRENT STAGE?

It will be slightly smaller.

- 14. WHAT CHANGES WILL BE MADE TO THE BAPTISTRY?** The current projector will be removed and repairs will be made to the wall near where it was installed. Additionally a camera and microphone will be added to the space so that the congregation has a more participatory experience during baptisms. Finally, visual improvements will be made so it becomes a focal point on the rear wall.
- 15. WHAT CHANGES WILL BE MADE TO THE FOYER?** Additional seating, tables, television monitors, and a more permanent welcome booth and coffee station.
- 16. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THE PEWS?** We are researching options, some of which would be to offer them as a way to raise funds for the project.
- 17. WHEN WILL IT GET STARTED?** May 2017.
- 18. HOW LONG WILL THIS TAKE?** It will take three to four months. The goal is to be finished before the UT students return on “Orange Sunday,” August 20, 2017.
- 19. WHAT WILL WE DO WHILE THE WORK IS BEING DONE?** We will meet in the Fellowship Hall.
- 20. WHO IS ON THE AUDITORIUM COMMITTEE?** Jon Russell is the chairman. Other members are Greg Bell, Toria Boyd, Chris Davis, Cindy Ingram, Chandra Milam, Jim Spencer, Scott Stewart, Anthony Todd, and Ashley White.
- 21. WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP?** We are soliciting contributions and pledges. Work will begin in early May and a transition committee will plan the logistics of the temporary use of the Fellowship Hall and the move into the new space.
- 22. HOW ARE WE GOING TO PAY FOR THIS?** The goal is to have pledges or contributions for the total amount by early summer.
- 23. WILL WE HAVE TO BORROW MONEY TO DO THIS?** We may need to borrow money until committed funds are actually contributed over time by members. The hope is to limit the term of the loan to three years.
- 24. CAN WE JUST FIX THE SOUND WITHOUT SPENDING MONEY ON THE OTHER PARTS OF THE PROPOSAL?** The committee considered that option. Committee members decided, and the elders agreed, that it makes the most sense to make all improvements at the same time, which will minimize disruption in the future. Also, the improvements work best when they’re integrated. That is, the sound system needs to be installed based on how seating is arranged, which impacts where video screens should be positioned. Finally, some upgrades are overdue, such as new carpet and more efficient lighting.
- 25. WHERE WILL THE WORSHIP TEAM PRACTICE ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AND SUNDAY MORNINGS IF THE AUDITORIUM IS BEING USED FOR CLASSES OR FRIEND SPEAK DISCUSSIONS?** Mike Taylor will discuss options with Worship Team members. With new sound equipment, there won’t be the same need for the Worship Team to use Wednesday evenings in the auditorium for sound checks and re-balancing sound settings.
- 26. WHO WILL REARRANGE THE CHAIRS TO BE SURE THEY ARE PROPERLY SITUATED FOR WORSHIP SERVICES?** We will form a team with responsibility for set-up, and we will all need to be responsible for treating the chairs with care.
- 27. WHY DON’T WE JUST BUY CUSHIONS FOR THE PEWS?** The chairs will permit more space between the rows for easier egress if people need to leave during a service or ingress when they return or if they arrive late.