

Interior Design Subcommittee Response Template

Subcommittee: Services/Care

Subcommittee Point of Contact: Melanie D'Evelyn & Betsy Stolaroff

Date of last subcommittee meeting: January 8, 2012

1. What's on your subcommittee's "wish list?" Please briefly summarize key findings.

Auditorium -- should provide a welcoming atmosphere that expresses warmth and love through its lighting, colors, and space. As a sacred place for Christian worship, it should convey a sense of openness, timelessness, genuineness, sincerity, a spark of humor, simplicity, grace. Striving to let the Pastor -- and our love of healing -- speak at every service:

Musical instruments (piano/organ) -- should be hidden, unless an integral part of the design; include flexibility for stringed instruments.

Wall treatment -- should convey warmth and strength, and provide good acoustics/sound system all around.

Seating -- should be inviting, comfortable, and have ample space for a traditional pew. There also have been several requests for seating that can be rearranged quickly for smaller groups -- a blend of formality and flexibility, "but not to the point that it doesn't look like a church."

Lighting -- interior/exterior lighting should expand the sense of warmth, especially at night, to attract visitors to our services; be easy to maintain (& change lightbulbs); make it possible to see words in the hymnal. If possible, provide for natural light behind readers during the service.

Platform/Podium -- should not be too high or too separate from the congregation and include: an adjustable desk so readers/association speakers can stand or sit, steps to balance height of Readers, separate rooms for readers/musicians, who enter the platform from behind (either side or in the middle).

Sound/acoustics -- should have speakers/surround sound wireless mikes strategically installed around the room; be easily adjustable for Readers' voices, music, testimonies. Keep it simple so everyone can operate. Acoustical barriers to dampen roadway traffic/sirens. All equipment should be the "best available" because of the importance of "heard ye the glad sound."

Audio visual system -- should enable members to film/broadcast from one space to another with large screen for presentations; include infrastructure for latest technology, even if not initially installed.

Floor -- should be soft, easy to walk on; a warm color.

Storage -- should provide space for extra hymnals, quarterlies, furniture.

Architecture:

Everything about the new church should reflect divine Love and be a symbol of what Christian Science has to offer. Expressing strength, order, and principle, the exterior and interior need to flow and speak to the congregation. Building on the pattern of outside architecture, the interior should carry the mood inside with its lighting, sound, surfaces (perhaps wood panels to compliment the details outside) to reflect a sense of the warmth and love that Christian Science provides. There should be no distractions.

2. What areas may need more discussion among the membership?

Here's a sampling:

Auditorium/foyer -- Where should the congregation flow following each service? What kinds of communications are needed between ushers/organist/Sunday School during a service, if any? How can lobby area be designed so that noise from latecomers can be kept to a minimum during

services, and also serve as a place to greet people, even if just a small area? What quotations from the Bible and Science and Health would we like to have? Is there some way to open church auditorium to the Reading Room, perhaps even with a big video screen, so that both spaces can work together for large events? One suggestion/request is a quiet study area with tables & chairs at the back of the auditorium for use with the Reading Room.

Platform -- What should the distance be between the podium and the front row? Does the soloist need to be on the platform with the readers? Should the platform space be flexible to accommodate other instruments?

Seating -- Should there be individual seats with armrests, pews, or perhaps a combo -- individual seats that include armrests and are attached by solid wood backing to make it look more like a church? Should there be any special seating for children or those in wheelchairs?

Restrooms -- how many & location(s)?

Sound/acoustics -- do we need lavalieres, a standup mike? Will mikes be needed in the auditorium? Can/should we hire an acoustic engineer to design a sound system for music and the spoken word? Should we provide units (ear buds) for anyone who would like to have sound amplified? Should sound from auditorium be heard in other areas of the church?

Technology -- would we like to have the ability to: broadcast simultaneous translations and make it possible for those who live out of town or cannot get to church attend/participate in services remotely?

Miscellaneous -- Should the design include stained glass, a fireplace, ramps, coat/umbrella rack, separate space for Care Committee, a kitchen?

Ongoing -- What is the right thing to do so Love can be expressed to the community through our church?

3. Who are the constituencies who will use this space? (inside and outside the immediate church community)

Readers
Musicians
Ushers
Congregation (members + visitors)
Christian Science Associations
Committee on Publication
Lynn House
Bible study groups
Community groups
Child care
Weddings/funerals

4. What are the various functions of the space? Describe how it should work not how it should look.

Church services & lectures
Community concerts/gatherings
Special events for church members

5. What new ideas from other churches or buildings would you like to see incorporated?

Ability to project hymns/images on walls

6. How will the uses of this space change? Throughout the week, throughout the year or over the longterm? How will it adapt for other purposes like holding a regional summit?